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Middle East & North Africa

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'ARAFAT MEETS UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE

JN051205Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 5 May--Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat has met with UNIFIL Commander Maj Gen Emmanuel Erskine, who arrived in Beirut this afternoon. UN sources in Beirut say that the meeting is within the framework of the contacts Major General Erskine is holding to contain the aftermath of the latest clashes in Tyre between the UNIFIL and the joint forces and to preclude any similar incidents in the future.

FATAH REPRESENTATIVE IN KUWAIT ON UNIFIL TASK

NC071154Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1052 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May--Fatah representative in Kuwait and the gulf area Salim az-Za'nun has stated that, in cooperation with the Arab group, the PLO will go to the Security Council if the UN Emergency Forces in southern Lebanon attempt to turn themselves into deterrent forces in Lebanon. Az-Za'nun issued the warning lest the UN Emergency Forces in Lebanon depart from their task of working for the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy's forces from the south.

In an interview published today by the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Az-Za'nun issued the warning lest any of these forces carry out a separate or partial action in favor of one party against the other in Lebanon, saying that this would be considered as an action directed not only against the Palestinian revolution but also against Syria.

Az-Za'nun stressed that Israel is fabricating incidents against the UN emergency forces and then attributing them to the Palestinians to pressure the UN forces into expanding their powers to really become a force for suppressing the joint [Lebanese-Palestinian] forces.

Az-Za'nun said that the Fatah Central Committee has decided to make a broad move on the Arab and international arenas, including the Soviet Union, the Arab Maghreb, Saudi Arabia and the gulf, to explain the Palestinian point of view on the current events. He added that this move will begin next week and that Yasir 'Arafat will lead the delegation which will visit the gulf area.

Az-Za'nun praised the role of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Bahrain in supporting the Palestinian revolution.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE SAYS UNIFIL CANNOT BE DETERRENT FORCE

JN071415Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May--The PLO representative in Kuwait has stated that the PLO, in cooperation with the Arab bloc, will turn to the UN Security Council if attempts are made to turn the UNIFIL into a deterrent force.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, the PLO representative expressed the PLO's confidence in Syria and added that the Palestinian revolution adheres to the Cairo agreement and is ready to abide by it as well as using it to reach understandings after the Israeli evacuation from southern Lebanon.

PRIME MINISTER SALIM EXPLAINS AIMS OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

NC071600Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] The new cabinet will be announced this afternoon after Prime Minister Mamduh Salim completes his consultations this morning.

Prime Minister Salim this morning received Counselor Ahmad Mamduh 'Atiyah. The Political Bureau of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt also met today under its leader, Prime Minister Salim.

At the meeting Prime Minister Salim spoke about the cabinet reshuffle and the requirements in the coming stage. He said: Today's meeting is part of the preparation for a decisive, national stage in the history of our country, in which the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt is shouldering the responsibility of ruling the country. This stage is a continuation of the difficult stage in which our party responsibly and courageously confronted all vestiges of the pre-15 May 1971 revolution period.

Prime Minister Salim said: The Arab Socialist Party of Egypt places all its resources under the wise nationalist leadership of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and adheres to the line of the 15 May revolution to achieve a great revolutionary reform. It is the destiny of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt and an honor for it to be a tool used by the president and the people to achieve this reform.

The prime minister explained that the primary objectives in the coming stage are completing the liberation of the land, solving the Middle East issue on the basis of a just peace, completing the course of sound party democracy, and overcoming the economic difficulties.

The prime minister cited three main tasks in the coming stage:

1. To work under the leadership of President as-Sadat to complete the liberation of the land on the basis of a just peace through the achievement of indigenous power and in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions.

2. To adhere to sound democratic party development and to respect the views of both the majority and the minority.

3. To drastically reform the Egyptian economy and achieve further successes which the party has begun in the sphere of reforming the economic infrastructure.

The prime minister explained that the party supports President as-Sadat's view that all developments have proved that the peace initiative is correct, sound and farsighted. He said: Our party must expose the suspect line which is trying to ignore international developments in favor of the Egyptian peace initiative and which is trying to insinuate that the initiative has collapsed. The party must also expose the aims of those who are trying to shatter the unity of our domestic front and who are still trying to undermine the effects of the initiative.

Prime Minister Salim explained that all the changes which are being ordered by the president are aimed at total reformation so that mistakes can be avoided. The constant reformation of our course must be a standard practice. However, those who pretend to be jealous about freedom must not be allowed to exploit this practice.

Regarding the cabinet reshuffle, the prime minister said it is aimed at safeguarding our course in popular representation, in party activities and in executive activities.

Defining responsibilities in the coming stage, Prime Minister Salim said:

1. The parliamentary body of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt must work to expedite the passing of legislative bills which are in the interests of the people and see that these bills are not delayed.

2. The central and regional organizational structure of the party must be strengthened as a new line for promoting party action.

3. There must be a continuing reformation of the economic situation and the economic infrastructure since the economic battle is a national battle.

4. The cabinet reshuffle aims at increasing the strength of party democracy. The party's share of cabinet posts strengthens the party and the democratic life of the party.

5. The cabinet must be infused with new blood. The new ministers will be familiar with the problems of the masses.

6. The cabinet reshuffle primarily dealt with the sectors of interest to the masses in the fields of agricultural production, supply, housing and transport.

7. The various departments and organizations of every ministry will be merged.

At the end of his statement, Prime Minister Salim said: We hope we are beginning a new initiative which will take us from the stage of outlining major solutions to the stage of achieving abundance, controlling prices, and increasing individual income.

The prime minister thanked the ministers who are relinquishing their posts to other colleagues in the party for their efforts and devotion.

New Cabinet

NC071528Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 May--Following a meeting of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt, Prime Minister Memduh Salim held a press conference at noon today at which he announced the formation of the new cabinet.

The following is the new cabinet as announced by Mamduh Salim:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production	Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi
Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister of Electricity and Energy	Eng Ahmad Sultan
Minister of State for People's Assembly Affairs	Dr Ahmad Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din
Minister of Industry, Petroleum and Mining	Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal
Minister of Education and Minister of State for Scientific Research	Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi

Minister of State for Local Government, Youth and Political and Popular Organizations	Muhammad Hamid Mahmud
Minister of Trade	Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah
Minister of Irrigation and Minister of State for Sudan Affairs	Eng 'Abd al-'Azim Abdallah abu al-'Ata
Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Control and Followup	Eng 'Isa 'Abd al-Hamid Shahin
Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation	Dr Hamid 'Abd al-Latif as-Sayih
Ministry of Health	Dr Ibrahim Jamil Mustafa Badran
Minister of Finance	Dr Mahmud Salah ad-Din Hamid
Minister of Awqaf and Minister of State for Al-Azhar Affairs	Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli 'Abd al-Hafiz ash-Sha'rawi
Minister of Information and Culture	'Abd al-Mun'im Mahmud as-Sawi
Minister of Land Reclamation	Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Shukri
Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation	Eng Muhib Ramzi Istinu
Minister for Insurance and Social Affairs	Dr Amal 'Uthman
Minister of the Interior	Maj Gen Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il
Minister of Reconstruction and New Societies	Eng Hasaballah Muhammad al-Kafrawi
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs	Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali
Minister of Transport and Communications and Maritime Transport	Dr Na'im Mustafa Abu Talib
Minister of State for War Production	Engineer 'Abd as-Sattar Mujahid 'Arafah
Minister of Manpower and Vocational Training	Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad
Minister of State for Administrative Development	Dr 'Ali as-Silmi
Minister of Planning	Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid
Minister of Justice	Counselor Ahmad Mamduh 'Atiyah
Minister of Agriculture	Dr Mahmud Muhammad Dawud
Minister of Housing	Eng Ahmad Tal'at Tawfiq
Minister of Supply	Nasif 'Abd al-Maqsud Ibrahim Tahun.

Salim Thanks Outgoing Ministers

NC0716047Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 May--Mamduh Salim, prime minister and leader of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt, today thanked the ministers who have left the cabinet for their efforts.

At a press conference held at noon today, Mamduh Salim said that these ministers left the government as a result of special circumstances and that they had given much during the past phase.

The prime minister explained that Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, former deputy prime minister for economic affairs and minister of planning, had often asked to leave the cabinet because of his health, on the understanding that he would contribute efforts outside the executive body.

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA

NC0720307Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre arrived in Alexandria this evening on a 2-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He was met by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The Somali president will hold talks with President Anwar as-Sadat on African issues in general and the situation in the Horn of Africa in particular.

SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA

NC072108Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 7 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria at 1930 today for talks with President Anwar as-Sadat. The talks will be within the framework of the mission of the Arab Solidarity Committee.

President Numayri was accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad and a Sudanese delegation.

President Numayri is to brief President as-Sadat tomorrow morning on the results of his visits to Damascus and Baghdad in the past few days.

According to President Numayri's press adviser, Muhammad Mahjub, the president's visits to Damascus and Baghdad confirmed that there is general agreement that the Arab nation is currently passing through an extremely delicate phase as a result of Israel's intransigence, arrogance, defiance of international will, and reliance on an aggressive policy.

Mahjub added that President Numayri is now sure that there is agreement that Arab solidarity is the basis of the Arab ability to meet this challenge, provided that solidarity means putting Arab resources at the service of the Arab nation's objectives.

Mahjub also said that President Numayri's contacts in the past 2 days have confirmed that there are many more points of agreement than points of disagreement among the Arab sides. He added that President Numayri will continue his tour of Arab states to hold consultations with the Arab kings and heads of state in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee.

The Sudanese president's adviser did not say when President Numayri will begin the second part of his tour.

AL-AHRAM ON BRANCHES OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

NC060832Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 May--AL-AHRAM reports today that during their interrogation the leader and members of the terrorist organization who were recently arrested in Egypt have admitted that their organization has branches in some Arab states. The purpose of the organization is to commit acts of terrorism and implement a subversive plan against some Arab regimes which they described as reactionary. They said they do not believe in or support the armed Palestinian struggle but work to obstruct the leftist progressive revolutionary movement.

The paper adds that according to the confessions of the organization's leader and members, the organization's branches in the Arab states intended to carry out their terrorist activities in accordance with a plan based on recruiting the largest possible number of Palestinians and people residing in those states and educating and training them as special cadres. Then, some of them would have been selected for training in assassination, sabotage and other terrorist operations at special bases of the organization located in Lebanon and Iraq.

AL-AHRAM says that the organization's leader and members have admitted that they sought the aid of international terrorist organizations, including the Red Brigades, to benefit from their criminal experience in protecting themselves, camouflaging their movements and attempting to mislead the Arab security organs and shake off their surveillance. They also admitted that they took into consideration the need to seek the aid of Arab and foreign women as a means of deception and to employ them in carrying messages from and to the organization's command and its branches in the various Arab states.

FIVE LEFTIST PARTY MEMBERS ARRESTED IN ALEXANDRIA

NC060840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that the state security prosecution in Alexandria is currently questioning five members of the National Progressive Unionist Party (the left) and some other communist elements.

The paper points out that these members and some communist elements were arrested in the past 2 days. They had in their possession a large quantity of leaflets full of lies and rumors liable to arouse the masses and disturb national unity and social peace.

The paper says that these people were arrested while distributing these leaflets in the vicinity of the customs department and other areas in Alexandria under the pretext of distributing election propaganda for the leftist candidate in the customs department constituency. The seat in this constituency became vacant when Shaykh 'Ashur Nasr was expelled from the People's Assembly for insulting the president of the republic and the People's Assembly.

DPA: TRIAL OF PRO-LIBYAN SECESSIONISTS BEGINS

NC061600Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 May--The trial of 36 pro-Libyan secessionists, members of the so-called Siwah youth organization in Siwah oasis in the western Egyptian desert, began today in Cairo.

The accused are being tried on a charge of calling for secession of the oasis from Egypt and its annexation by Libya. The leaders of the organization, Shaykh Abu Bakr Bakrir and Ilyas Abu Yaks al-Jadhdhafi, reportedly acted in accordance with the orders of a Libyan intelligence officer.

FRG JUSTICE MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC061627Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 May--FRG Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel arrived in Cairo today on a 3-day visit. This is the first visit to Egypt by an FRG justice minister. He was met at the airport by Minister of Justice Ahmad Samih Tal'at.

Mr Vogel said the visit is within the framework of strengthening the good relations between Egypt and the FRG. He said he would discuss with Minister Tal'at the possibility of consolidating relations between the two countries, judicial cooperation, recognition of court verdicts and combating terrorism.

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FROM DAMASCUS

JN071017Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived here at noon today on a short visit to the Iraqi capital. He was accorded an official welcome headed by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

The Sudanese president is accompanied by a delegation including Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and minister of foreign affairs; Abu Bakr 'Uthman Muhammad Salih, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Press Adviser Muhammad Mahjub.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad also arrived on board the same plane.

Begins Talks

JN071156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May--Official talks between President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri began in the Republican Palace at noon today. A review was held of the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as the means to strengthen these relations in the interests of the issues facing the Arab nation.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, Minister of Public Works and Housing and acting foreign minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali.

On the Sudanese side the talks were attended by Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and minister of foreign affairs; Abu Bakr 'Uthman Muhammad Salih, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Muhammad Mahjub, the Sudanese president's press adviser; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

The talks were also attended by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad.

Leaves Baghdad for Cairo

JN071502Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad for Cairo this afternoon at the end of a visit of several hours to Iraq. He was seen off at Baghdad International Airport by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Revolution Command Council members, ministers, and several high-ranking officials. Before leaving the airport, President Numayri told INA that Iraq still adheres to the principled stand for which it is well-known. This is an important element and a pillar of the Arab nation, which is playing its struggling role with all confidence and sincerity.

Numayri further said: Our talks with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr were characterized by frankness and clarity. Our talks were extremely useful for my mission. Numayri affirmed that his mission is within the framework of the Arab Solidarity Committee and is proceeding successfully. He added that the views put forward by the Arab kings and presidents demonstrated (?objectivity) and responsibility.

JORDAN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA ISSUE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

JN051625Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] A press statement was issued in Amman and Prague this evening on the visit to Jordan by Bohuslav Chnoupek, foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and on his talks with senior Jordanian officials. The following is the text of the statement:

At the invitation of Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, paid a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the period 2-5 May 1978. His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and His Excellency Prime Minister Mudar Badran, received the visiting foreign minister during his trip to Jordan.

During the official visit, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, official talks were held between the Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs and the minister of state for foreign affairs aimed at strengthening bilateral contacts between the two countries and at bolstering and expanding the bases of existing cooperation. In this respect, an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation was signed between the two countries.

It was also agreed that the implementation of the trade accord being prepared at present will help in developing relations of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to pursue efforts to expand the scope of political, economic, trade, cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides, Jordanian and Czechoslovak, gave special attention to the Middle East situation which stems from Israel's continuing policy of expansion and aggression. They stressed that Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in the wake of the 1967 aggression and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights, particularly the right of self-determination, according to the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, are the basic conditions for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The two parties stressed that the settlement of the Middle East problem requires the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO.

The two sides condemned the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the occupation of some of its territory and stressed the need for complete and swift Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction concerning the subject of international relaxation, which must be expanded to cover the arms race. In this respect, the two parties stressed their support for the success of the special UN session on disarmament.

The two sides also expressed their support for the just struggle the peoples of Africa are still waging to obtain their independence and their right to self-determination. They condemned all kinds of colonialism, discrimination and racism.

The Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome accorded him during his visit. He extended an invitation to the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs to visit Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak foreign minister left Amman at noon today at the end of his 4-day visit.

JORDAN, USSR SIGN CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JN061626Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 6 May--The governments of Jordan and the USSR today signed a program for scientific-cultural cooperation for 1978-79 at the National Planning Council. Under the program, the USSR will grant 55 scholarships annually to Jordanian students plus seven other scholarships for higher studies. The program provides for the establishment of cooperation between the Polytechnic Institute in Leningrad and the Al-Yarmuk University.

The program also provides for the establishment of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture and arts. The USSR will send 13 musical groups and a classical ballet group from the Leningrad Theater to play in Jordan for 1 week. The program also provides for information and press cooperation between the two countries through tne exchange of information and press delegations as well as movies. Also in this regard, Jordan will participate in the international film festival which will be held in Tashkent. The program also provides for the exchange of information, news and movies in the health, sports, and youth welfare fields as well as the exchange of delegations in all these areas. The program comes in implementation of the scientific and cultural cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in Moscow in October 1967.

The program was signed for the Jordanian Government by Dr Hanna 'Awdah, chairman of the National Planning Council, and for the Soviet Government by its ambassador in Amman.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN LEAVES FOR VISIT TO MOROCCO

JN061509Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 6 May--His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Royal Highness Princess Tharwat left Amman this afternoon for Morocco on a visit of several days at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II. Their royal highnesses are accompanied on this visit by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Alia; Nasir Mirza; Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade; 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, director general of the Phosphates company; and Husuf an-Nimri, director general of the Natural Resources Authority.

During his visit to Morocco, his royal highness the crown prince will hold official talks with Moroccan officials on the existing relations between the two fraternal countries and on ways to promote and develop them. Agreements will also be signed on trade, and air and maritime navigation, as well as on economic, technical and tourist cooperation between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and those accompanying him were seen off at Amman airport by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a number of high-ranking officials.

NEW UNIT OF SHOCK TROOPS GRADUATE IN AMMAN

JN071525Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 7 May--A new unit of shock troops composed of officers and men in the Jordanian armed forces was graduated in Amman today. The graduation ceremony included shows performed by the graduates, including crossing barriers and barbed wire in a battle atmosphere and under live fire.

BUTRUS RECEIVES SOVIET, FRENCH, U.S. AMBASSADORS

NC051238Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 May 78 NC

[Text] In the diplomatic arena, the situation in the south and developments over the past few days occupied the attention of senior officials at the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry.

Within the context of the diplomatic moves connected with the developments in the situation in the south, Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus held successive meetings this morning with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, French Ambassador Hubert Argod and U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker.

After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said: We exchanged viewpoints on the situation in Lebanon, and I conveyed to Minister Butrus some of my government's views on topics of mutual interest.

When the Soviet ambassador was asked how his country views the latest events in the south, he responded: Which events? He was told: the Tyre incidents. He replied: We did not discuss this point with Minister Butrus.

The Soviet ambassador was asked: Did the discussion deal with an explanation of your country's attitude toward the latest UN Security Council session? He answered: Our stance has been published in the newspapers, and it is clear.

He was asked: Did you meet Minister Butrus at his request? He answered: The meeting took place at my request, and I explained to him the subjects which I have mentioned.

The Soviet ambassador was asked: What is your viewpoint on the recent Tyre incidents? He answered: I have learned about what has happened in Tyre through the newspapers.

The Soviet ambassador was asked: Do you not believe that a repetition of such a clash would give Israel an excuse to remain in place in southern Lebanon? He answered: I believe it is imperative for the UN forces to implement the Security Council resolution with patience and flexibility. This would allow a calm situation in the south to stabilize in the face of the aggressor--that is, Israel. The Soviet Union's stand is one of calling upon Israel to immediately withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and of deploying the UN forces all along the Lebanese-Israeli border so that these forces would provide security for Lebanon against the aggressor.

The Soviet ambassador was also asked: Do you not believe that a repetition of the Tyre incident would delay Israel's withdrawal? He answered: I believe it is in the interest of peace in southern Lebanon that no incident, such as the Tyre incident, should occur. Definitely, the repetition of such an incident in southern Lebanon would not be in the interest of peace. Therefore, all the parties should continue to be patient in order to work in an atmosphere of understanding to keep the situation calm. Certainly, Israel can use any incident as a pretext for staying in southern Lebanon. I believe it is now imperative for the parties concerned in the south not to create any such incidents.

Butrus Comment

NC051400Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 5 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, this morning reviewed with the Soviet, French and U.S. ambassadors questions of mutual interest.

Commenting on his talks with the U.S., French and Soviet ambassadors, Minister Butrus said: [begin recording]

[Butrus] First of all, I want to correct a press report saying I summoned the three ambassadors. In fact, they asked to meet with me. The other thing is that the meetings between the ambassadors and me dealt with matters they wanted to raise in connection with the current situation and developments in Lebanon and in the area. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations.

The discussions with the Soviet ambassador dealt with the situation arising out of the UN Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon and some affairs concerning the Soviet Union's general policy toward the forthcoming UN debates.

The talks with the French ambassador dealt with the recent incident in Tyre, which we very much regret. The French ambassador has acquainted me with the information available on the circumstances and implications of the incident. I also discussed with him ways and means to prevent regrettable incidents in the future.

My talks with the U.S. ambassador dealt with the situation in the area and the U.S. expectations following the UN Security Council resolution on Israeli withdrawal from the remainder of southern Lebanon and the implementation of all the provisions of the Security Council resolution. We also reviewed the general situation in the Middle East and future expectations.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you think that the Tyre incident has been contained? Have any specific measures been taken to prevent a similar incident?

[Answer] Measures to prevent a similar incident are not the concern of the Lebanese authorities. The quarters and machinery responsible for these matters must make the necessary efforts to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

[Question] Did your talks with the U.S. ambassador deal with U.S. military aid to the Lebanese Army?

[Answer] No, this subject was not discussed.

[Question] Regarding current developments and as a result of your discussions with the ambassadors, did any positive factors emerge which could have repercussions on the situation in Lebanon as a whole?

[Answer] That is an old, traditional question. You must love this question since you ask me this every time. Discussions on any subject inevitably have repercussions on something at some point.

[Question] Do you expect the cabinet to meet Wednesday?

[Answer] I admit that I have no idea. This depends on whether there are urgent matters for discussion.

[Question] Will you hold further contacts or meetings with other ambassadors?

[Answer] I repeat that I did not contact the ambassadors but that the three ambassadors I received today had asked for an appointment with me 3 days ago.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Answer] The question is beyond my competence and authority.

[Question] How true are the reports about the transfer of the headquarters of the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] and other UN agencies from Beirut?

[Answer] I learned of the transfer of UNRWA over 20 days ago. The decision was adopted by the UNRWA high commissioner in Lebanon in light of certain recent events which affected some offices and employees of UNRWA. I discussed this subject with the high commissioner at length and carried out the necessary consultations. I stress that the decision will be limited to this particular agency. This does not mean that UNRWA will no longer exist in Lebanon. Its directorate will remain in Beirut and will continue to offer its services as before. I urge all concerned parties in Lebanon and all those present on Lebanese territory to respect the Lebanese and foreign nationals who are carrying out a positive, effective role on Lebanese territory. Any action violating the well-known principles of hospitality and respect for others will one day have negative repercussions on Lebanon's interests. Nobody wants this to happen. [end recording]

French, U.S. Ambassadors Comment

NC051550Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 78 NC

[Text] After his meeting this morning with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, the French ambassador said: We discussed the situation which emerged in the wake of the recent incidents in Tyre and elsewhere, and we reviewed the task of the UN forces. The French ambassador denied that there is a plan to send 500 more French troops to Lebanon.

The ambassador was asked if Colonel Salvan will remain in Lebanon. He answered: He is now compelled to stay in a hospital to be treated by doctors and surgeons, and it is up to them to decide whether he will return to France.

On possible changes in the task of the UNIFIL in the south, the French ambassador said: This would be a matter for discussion at the United Nations.

The U.S. ambassador said: We talked about the situation in general and the situation in the south in particular in light of the UN resolutions. We also reviewed the situation in the area. Asked about the contacts which are being held by the U.S. Government to ease repercussions from the Tyre incident or to prevent its repetition, he said: I do not want to make any comment on the Tyre incident. The U.S. ambassador ruled out any transformation of the UNIFIL into a deterrent force.

KARAMI MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN051853Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister, yesterday received Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Lebanon, with whom he held consultations on issues of the current situation.

Afterwards, Rashid Karami made a statement in which he said: It is impossible for anyone to believe that the conspiracy against Lebanon has ended. We believe that the fabrication of the crises has more far-reaching objectives than the search or struggle for government positions. Those who are calling for a halt to Palestinian activity are just serving the enemy's aims and objectives, at the very time that Moshe Dayan is calling for settling the Palestinians in Lebanon and the other Arab countries. Karami wondered if this was also the aim of those who are calling for a halt to the activity of the Palestinian resistance.

Discussing the reports about UNRWA's intention to transfer its headquarters from Lebanon, Karami stated that if this report proves to be true, then it will be only the first of other measures which will affect Beirut's position as an international economic and trade center.

Karami concluded his statement by saying that the unity of the Lebanese people will save the country from the clutches of the conspiracies.

TYRE CALM; UNIFIL, GENDARMERIE CONTINUE DEPLOYMENT

NC072123Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] There is increased calm and reassurance in the city of Tyre and surrounding areas as a result of the efforts to restore the confidence of the people.

Meanwhile, the UNIFIL have continued to implement their plan to consolidate and complete the deployment of their forces and to fortify their positions overlooking the roads and valleys. They have been doing this in complete cooperation with the internal security forces.

The gendarmerie have been reinforced in their assigned police posts in various parts of the south from which the Israeli forces have withdrawn. The gendarmerie have begun assuming their responsibilities in Tibin, Qana, Jwayya, Al-Bazuriyah and on the roads leading to these villages.

The headquarters of the Bint Jubayl gendarmerie squad is now in Tibin, because the Bint Jubayl district officer, Ghassan Hayyar, has decided to establish a temporary office in Tibnin until Israel withdraws from Bint Jubayl.

MISSING UN OFFICIAL FOUND SAFE NEAR SIDON

NC060610Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] The UN forces report that the civilian British expert with the United Nations in the south who had been missing for 3 days has been found safe in the Sidon area.

AL-ASAD MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL OF SUDAN'S NUMAYRI

JN051205Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Damascus at 1045 today. President Hafiz al-Asad received him at Damascus International Airport.

In reply to the questions of Sudanese journalists on his meeting with President Numayri, President al-Asad said: We had better not anticipate events. He said: Arab solidarity is an Arab requirement, but it must have substance and a sound basis.

He further said: The slogan of Arab solidarity, as far as I can remember, was first coined in Syria and was in harmony with the desire of all Arab citizens and officials. The substance of this slogan is to resist the enemy, his expansionist ambitions and desires, and to effectively confront his defiance. As such, Arab solidarity was and will always remain a requirment for which we will do our utmost. In reply to another question on the bases President Numayri will put forth, President al-Asad said to the journalist who put the question: You are talking about these bases as if you know them. However, I do not yet known them.

Asked for his opinion on the possibility of reestablishing relations between Egypt and the countries of the front of steadfastness and confrontation, President al-Asad said: This matter is not a big problem. What is important is to reach an agreement on the substance of Arab solidarity. Other matters are subsidiary and not the real problem facing us. It is not reasonable to discuss marginal matters while ignoring the substance of the problem.

Talks Begin

JN051335Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ja'far Numayri held a meeting at the guest palace. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, Sudanese vice president and minister of foreign affairs; and Abu Bakr 'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs. The meeting was also attended by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad.

Presidents al-Asad and Numayri will hold another meeting at the presidential palace this evening.

Second Round of Talks

JN051933Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ja'far Muhammad Numayri held a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1900 tonight. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Adib Milhim. It was attended on the Sudanese side by Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and minister of foreign affairs; Abu Bakr 'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Muhammad Mahjub, press adviser to President Numayri. The meeting was also attended by Muhamud Riyad, the secretary general of the Arab League.

Meetings Continue

JN061326Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] The official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ja'far Numayri resumed at 1130 today in the presence of the Syrian and Sudanese delegations. Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general, also attended the talks.

Talks End; Numayri Leaves

JN070845Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 7 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Damascus at 0930 today following a 3-day visit to Syria.

President Numayri was seen off at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, ministers, the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus and the heads of diplomatic missions in Damascus.

Members of the delegation accompanying President Numayri and Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Damascus aboard President Numayri's plane.

AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES, ARAB RELATIONS

JN061915Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--On Tuesday, 2 May, President Hafiz al-Asad received Muhammad Majid as-Suwaydi, director general and chief editor of the newspaper AL-WATHBAH which is published in Abu Dhabi, and outlined to him the situation in the region. The following is the text of the president's statement which was simultaneously published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS:

Replying to a question, the president said: We will continue to be true to our Arab nation. This is something which I affirmed in my speech to the Syrian People's Assembly. We feel that our nation's support is a source of strength for us.

The president said: Our relations with His Highness Shaykh Zayid are excellent. He is good, noble and chivalrous. He has a sense of national pride and is prepared to make sacrifices. I am not talking about geography.

However, I can say that the area is threatened by big and serious problems. We can, however, avoid these problems if we quickly perceive matters as they are and if we prepare ourselves for them. The current Arab situation is not comforting, but daylight is bound to follow darkness.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the president said: We continue to hold contacts with the Lebanese sides and the PLO. The implementation of the agreements regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations is in the interest of Lebanon, the Palestinians and the Arabs. The implementation of these agreements is the only way to curtail those who wish evil to everyone.

Replying to another question, the president said: Our recent tour of the Arab gulf countries was not for the purpose of obtaining aid for Syria, but to explain the Arab situation regarding the confrontation with the enemy, especially after as-Sadat's visit to the occupied land.

The president said: Syria's position toward as-Sadat's visit stems from a spontaneous feeling, which is the feeling of every citizen in this country. The Syrian position has its own rational justifications and we believe that it expresses the wishes of all who are Arab.

Asked if it is possible to meet with As-Sadat if the latter withdraws from his current position, the president said: The opening of the path to Jerusalem was the cause of the dispute. The important thing is to tightly close that path. Any talk about Arab solidarity without so doing will only consolidate the march toward the enemy.

The president added: We have always been anxious to have Arab solidarity. Therefore, anyone who now wants to achieve Arab solidarity must first make sure that the path to occupied Jerusalem is closed. Solidarity must have a substance; its aim must be to confront the enemy, not to go to him. The purpose of the efforts to forego Arab differences must be to win the conflict against the enemy. If this is not the purpose, then we will be following the course of surrender.

All the countries of the world know the real meaning of going to the enemy. In World War II, Marshal Petain agreed to conclude an agreement with Nazi Germany. He said that he took this step to save the women and children of France. The Germans were indeed overrunning France. Marshal Petain was a World War I hero, but when he concluded the agreement with Nazi Germany he was considered a traitor. He was sentenced to death but the sentence was eventually commuted to life imprisonment. On the other hand, General de Gaulle who said "no" from Britain became a hero. What would the British people have said about Churchill if he had responded to Hitler's attempts to conclude an agreement with Britain? Churchill also said "no" in the midst of intensive daily air raids on his country. Dignity is the substance of life. No people will allow their dignity to be trampled on.

Replying to other questions, the president said: I am seeking to achieve a strategic balance with Israel. We now are telling all our brothers who want to participate in the battle that our territory is open to them so they can contribute financially and militarily. We in Syria are trying to prevent any basic problem between any two Arab countries. Our Iraqi brothers can and must have a more effective role in pooling resources against Israel. If there is a proper pan-Arab attitude, there will be no difficult problems to solve. However, if there is no proper pan-Arab attitude, then every small problem becomes a big ideological issue.

Regarding Syria's position on the Eritrean question, the president said: We support the Eritrean question and its revolution. The Eritrean revolution should have full support, the Eritrean people have been wronged.

Asked if it is possible to repeat the October 1973 stand and to apply the oil embargo and also asked if Syria can face the enemy alone, the president said: We are seeking to achieve a strategic balance with the enemy. If fighting erupts now, we will fight with all our power, and Israel well knows this. I do not like to speak on the subject of oil, this must be left to our brothers in the oil-producing countries. I believe, however, that with time it will be impossible to hold any and all Arab capabilities outside the conflict. Arab oil, itself, is just as much a target as is Arab territory. Therefore, if the military wall collapses, Israel would be able to reach for the oilfields.

We are all Arabs with national sentiments and these sentiments cannot allow us merely to stand by if the oil sources are jeopardized. So that we Arabs can receive the full benefit of our efforts, it is essential to exert these efforts at all times. Our efforts must not take the form of a sincere and enthusiastic reaction only when something happens.

Replying to another question, the president said: If the October war had continued on the two fronts, we would have achieved better results for Syria, Egypt and the Arab nation. A war is not measured by its parts; war is a process of attack and retreat, offensives and many operations. What is important is that these moves be coordinated to achieve the general objective. A general assessment leads us to say that if the war had continued, this would have furthered our interest.

Regarding the Deversoir Bulge, all we in Syria know is that it happened. The matter can be argued from the military technical point of view. The Egyptian army is a brave and daring army and the Egyptian army commanders hold different viewpoints on that bulge. The cause of the June 1967 setback was that the enemy army was superior in training and equipment. There was also a lack of effective Arab coordination.

The president spoke about the role of the Arab media in enlightening the citizens about important issues. He said that the Arab media must express their true convictions after investigating the facts. The president stressed that there is a frightful campaign of misinformation in the Arab homeland. He praised the role of the news media in the UAE and the fraternal gulf states.

The president stressed: We in Syria act only on the basis of national considerations despite all the resultant difficulties. As a matter of fact, these difficulties would quickly disappear if we were to act on the basis of regional considerations. The best proof of this is what we faced in the Lebanese situation. Events have proved the soundness of our position in Lebanon. We are not supporting one side against another; we are with the cause. Whoever fights for a cause cannot deviate from his course.

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic on 6 May reports the above interview with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This version included the following:

"On the situation in Lebanon, the Syrian president said: We are eager to exert our utmost efforts to restore security to fraternal Lebanon.

"In regard to Syria's relations with the Palestinian resistance, President al-Asad said that Syria will not permit any action that would prevent the resistance from practicing its legitimate right to struggle against the enemy.

"In reply to a question on the future of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon, particularly following the Lebanese parliamentary committee statement, President al-Asad said: We believe that the resistance has the right to operate [haq al-'amal] in every Arab country, but within the framework of the sovereignty of that country and its laws. We do not want the resistance to create opposition to its struggle. However, we will not permit any action to be taken that would prevent the resistance from exercising its legitimate right to struggle against the enemy. We understand the statement in light of the Cairo agreement."

AL-BA'TH: ARABS SHOULD REVIEW POLICY TOWARD U.S.

JN0706l0Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "Can We Use the Available Weapon of Victory Appropriately?" the newspaper AL-BA'TH deals with the U.S. stand toward the Arab-Zionist conflict. It says: Now that the United States, represented by its President Jimmy Carter, has revealed all its cards regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, openly declared its complete embrace of the Israeli stand vis-a-vis this conflict, declared its open objection to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, unveiled its real face and declared its blatant enmity toward the Arabs, we say that it is incumbent upon the Arabs to reassess their stands, to review their political moves and to formulate a new Arab strategy capable of confronting the serious threats resulting from the U.S. stand.

The newspaper calls upon the Arabs to formulate their strategy on the grounds that the United States has never been--nor is presently--a mediator or arbiter in the Middle East conflict, but has been and still is a loyal ally of Israel and an integral partner in all its stands and aggressions against the Arab nation.

The paper adds: It is imperative that the Arabs now review the history of U.S. policy and of Arab-U.S. relations so that they understand the seriousness of the U.S. actions against us ever since the establishment of the Zionist entity in Palestine in 1948 and compare these harrassments with the services we have been rendering to the United States in return.

AL-BA'TH adds: If the Arabs fail to do this, they will achieve one result, namely to abet the U.S. striving and planning to absorb this area and link it to the wheel of its influence, using Israel as a spearhead and an advance base to achieve this goal and thus flouting the Arab nation's interests and pan-Arab aspirations.

SYRIA OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES NEW AFGHAN REGIME

JN0805l4Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 May 78 JN

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has sent a cable to Hafezollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Afghanistan, informing him of the Syrian government's recognition of the new regime in Afghanistan. The following is the text of the cable:

On behalf of the government of the Syrian Arab Republic and in my name it pleases me to express to your excellency, and through you to the new government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, our best wishes for the success of His Excellency President Nur Mohammad Taraki, his government and your excellency.

I would like to inform you of the Syrian Arab Republic's full recognition of the new regime and to express the hope of the Syrian Arab Republic--its government and people--that the new regime will usher in an era of welfare and prosperity for the fraternal Afghan people.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM CEASESCU

JN0421305 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus-President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received from the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania a letter from Romanian President Nicolae Ceasescu dealing with the results of his trip to the United States and his talks with President Carter.

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID PROTESTS FRENCH INTERVENTION IN SAHARA

LD061515Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Once again the French Government is acting like an imperialist policeman and does not hesitate to shed the blood of an Arab and African people fighting for the right to self-determination and independence," EL MOUDJAHID says on Saturday in connection with the latest French aggressive action against Saharan units.

"For a long time now, EL MOUDJAHID emphasizes, no one has been deceived by misleading excuses--and in particular "the protection of French citizens" invoked by Paris. Endless proof has been supplied as to the entirely repressive and neocolonial nature of French military intervention."

Pointing out the gross contradiction between the statements and protestations of good faith made lately by the French authorities and the interventionist policy increasingly pursued by them, particularly in Africa, EL MOUDJAHID continues:

"In Africa in general and particularly in our region, a French military presence represents a permanent and serious threat to the peace, freedom and security of the peoples, as the Algerian people are certainly not the only ones threatened."

SAO TOME, PRINCIPE PRESIDENT DEPARTS AFTER VISIT

LD070240Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] President Manuel Pinto da Costa of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe left Algiers today after [words indistinct] with President Houari Boumediene, with whom he had a final private talk at the Palais du Peuple.

Communique on Visit

LD070306Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] A joint communique was issued after the visit to Algeria by the president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

President da Costa's visit lasted 3 days. During his visit--the joint communique states--President Manuel Pinto da Costa had talks with President Houari Boumediene. The talks were held in an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding, in conformity with the relations of friendship and solidarity existing between the two countries which [words indistinct] joint fight against [word indistinct] imperialism and for freedom throughout the world.

The two sides, the communique says, have [words indistinct], the purpose of which is to establish relations of friendly cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields and to increase their collective (?efforts). To this end (?the two sides) [words indistinct] on a solid basis, in particular by the establishment of a joint committee.

The two sides consider that imperialist machinations [words indistinct] aim at (?restricting) the normal course of the economic life of (?Africa), [words indistinct] foreign intervention and to destabilize the countries engaged in attaining their national independence and to weaken the (?successes) of the national liberation movements.

The Algerian side has renewed its unwavering support for and active solidarity with the people of Sao Tome and Principe in their efforts [words indistinct] against any aggression aimed at endangering their national independence, territorial integrity and the normal process of their development. It also expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe aimed at recovering of its natural resources and controlling and managing the means for its national development. The two sides firmly condemn the policy of apartheid [words indistinct] and denounce the constant provocations [words indistinct].

In the communique they denounce the multilateral aid the Western powers grant to the Pretoria regime, thereby contributing to its consolidation and the development of its actions which are harmful to peace and security in the area. They renew their total support for the liberation movement in South Africa and reaffirm their militant solidarity with the frontline states. The two sides [words indistinct] African territory [words indistinct] by foreign [word indistinct] against the independence, security and solidarity of African countries, and also that their populations can have a say in their own fate by exercising the inalienable right of self-determination. In this context they recall the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, which in particular denounce the illegal occupation of the Comoro island of Hayotte by France, and they support the just demands of the Comoran people for the establishment of their territorial integrity and national unity.

Regarding the situation in the Western Sahara and the Middle East, the two sides [words indistinct] grave concern over the situation in the Western Sahara due to the aggression and occupation of territory [words indistinct] with the aim of slowing down the normal procedure of decolonization and [word indistinct] of the Saharan people and the exercise of their right to self-determination. The two sides salute the heroic fight waged by the Saharan people [word indistinct] Polisario Front and renew their constant support and unfailing solidarity. They firmly condemn the French military intervention in the area, which is aimed at reinforcing the Moroccan and Mauritanian forces in their (?action) of destruction and genocide regarding the Saharan people.

In addition to the threat which it poses to peace and security in the area, such intervention contributes to the frustration of the OAU efforts for a just and lasting solution, which will guarantee to the Saharan people the exercise of their right to self-determination. For all these reasons the two sides are convinced of the need to hold as soon as possible an extraordinary summit of the OAU devoted to the question of the Western Sahara, in conformity with the decision unanimously passed by the heads of state at their summit in Mauritius. To this end they support the recommendations of the recent OAU Council of Ministers meeting regarding the holding of this extraordinary summit in Khartoum in July.

They also reaffirm that a lasting settlement in the Middle East cannot come about without the recognition and attainment of the Palestinian people's national rights and the recovery by the Arab peoples of all occupied territories. The two sides--Algeria and Sao Tome and Principe--(?believe) that a just solution of the Middle East crisis is possible only with the participation and solidarity of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They salute the efforts made and the actions taken by the countries of the (?steadfastness front) in accordance with the decisions of the summits held in Tripoli and Algiers, with a view to mobilizing the forces of Arab resistance and to give increased support to the fight of the Palestinian people.

The two sides reaffirmed their firm attachment to the principles and objectives of the OAU Charter and of the nonalined movement. They have decided to continue their friendly (?cooperation) [words indistinct] continental organizations of this movement.

Finally, the joint communique states that President Houari Boumediene has been invited to visit Sao Tome and Principe and he has accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SAHARAN PRIME MINISTER

LD0704467 Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 6, JANA--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi this morning received Prime Minister of the Arab Peoples Socialist Saharan Republic Mr. Mohamed Al Amin, who briefed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on the dimensions of the aggressive French attack on the Saharan people.

France had confessed the attack and claimed that she launched the attack to protect the French people who live in "Al-Saqia al-Hamra", ex-"Spanish Sahara" and "Wady Al Zahab" [place names as received].

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES PFLP SECRETARY GENERAL HABASH

LD0704287 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 6, JANA--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi today received the secretary-general of the Popular Front for Palestinian Liberation, Mr. George Habash.

Mr. Habash briefed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on the latest developments in the Middle East situation, the Arab cause and the situation of the Palestinian resistance.

Habash Departs

LD0704307 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] This afternoon George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, left Tripoli after a visit to the Jamahiriyah lasting several days.

FOREIGN SECRETARY AT-TURAYKI RETURNS FROM SENEGAL

LD052229Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Foreign Secretary Dr Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki returned to Tripoli this evening after leading the delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamariyah (SPLAJ) to the meetings of the ninth session of the Islamic foreign ministers held in Dakar the last week of April.

During the visit Dr at-Turayki held a number of talks and meetings with officials in Senegal concerning consolidating bilateral relations. Dr at-Turayki was received by President Leopold Senghor, president of the Republic of Senegal, and by Senegalese Prime Minister Abdou Diouf. He discussed African issues and bilateral relations with them. The Senegalese president expressed appreciation for the efforts of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the service of African causes.

S. AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL'S TAMBO ARRIVES

LD051502Y Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 5 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 5, JANA--Mr Oliver Tambo, secretary-general of the South African National Council, arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Jamahiriyah lasting several days.

He was received at Tripoli international airport by officials of the Foreign Secretariat and the Foreign Liaison Bureau of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

Mr. Oliver made a statement to JANA in which he praised the positive and brave stands of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He said: "We see here (the Jamahiriyah) as the hope for assisting all the peoples aspiring for freedom."

He added: "We stand by the leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution and support his approach in solving the African Continent's problems, which must be handled by the Africans themselves."

He referred to the French intervention in Chad by saying: "It is well known that Chad's problem was solved in the Jamahiriyah's land, namely in the cities of Sabha and Benghazi."

He said: "Southern Africa is witnessing a continuous war between the racist forces and the African freedom fighters."

He added: "The French Government is selling various types of weapons to the two racist regimes of Smith and Vorster. The U.N. had condemned the export of weapons to South Africa."

He continued: "We condemn France for her irresponsible measures."

MAURITANIA

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF ARRIVES WITH DELEGATION

JN051509Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 5 May 78 JN

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 May--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the Iraqi delegation accompanying him arrived in Nouakchott today on a 2-day official visit to Mauritania.

The vice president was given an official and popular welcome at Nouakchott airport. Foremost among those welcoming the vice president were Ahmed Ould Mohamed Salah, member of the National Political Bureau of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of equipment and transport; Hamdi Ould Mouknass, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; senior Mauritanian officials; heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps; and a large group of citizens.

Upon his arrival at Nouakchott airport, Ma'ruf stated that during his visit he will discuss with Mauritanian leaders bilateral relations, which he described as solid. The two parties will also review the current Arab situation and international issues of interest to both parties. He further stated that the visit comes during dangerous circumstances through which the Arab nation, the African Continent and the Third World are passing as a result of the fierce Zionist-imperialist onslaught on the Arab homeland and as a result of the imperialist policy of the colonialist countries toward the Third World and the African Continent. These policies prevent Third World and African countries from exercising their right to self-determination.

Ma'ruf and the accompanying delegation concluded a 4-day visit to Cuba yesterday. Following his departure from Havana airport, Ma'ruf sent the following cable to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State and Council Ministers: Our discussions with Comrade Castro and with you have proved once again the close links binding our two countries and parties. They have also strengthened the common solidarity against imperialism and Zionism. I hope you will convey to Comrade Castro and to the friendly Cuban people our appreciation and all best wishes for progress and development.

Foreign Ministry Meeting

JN061813Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1622 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Nouakchott, 6 May--A meeting was held here today between Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs, and Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Arab situation, the African Continent--particularly the Eritrean revolution--and the Arab Maghreb. During the discussions, emphasis was placed on the Palestinian issue and the means to support the nonalined movement and develop its capabilities internationally. They also reviewed the means to develop bilateral relations, strengthen existing spheres of cooperation between Iraq and Mauritania, and expand contacts between them. They reviewed Iraq's participation in various Mauritanian projects and institutions.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 'Abd al-Husayn ar-Rafa'i, Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott; and a number of officials. The meeting was attended on the Mauritanian side by Mohamed Ould Sayyid, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad; and a number of officials.

Dr Hammadi [illegible]ly on a visit to Mauritania as a member of the Iraqi delegation accompanying Iraqi vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf.

The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs stressed that relations between Iraq and Mauritania--and between the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Mauritanian People's Party--are experiencing constant progress and development on all levels.

In an exclusive interview with the INA correspondent, Hamdi Ould Mouknass stated that the Iraqi vice president's visit to Mauritania is an expression of the level of relations and the desire to develop them.

He pointed out that viewpoints were identical on all subjects discussed during the meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Regarding the situation in Eritrea, Ould Mouknass called for supporting Eritrea in its resistance against the Ethiopian occupation, particularly now that there are wide-scale military preparations to attack the Eritrean people. He hoped that the Eritrean Arab people will obtain their national rights.

In reply to a question from an INA correspondent on the results of the capitulationist and settlement policies in the Arab area, and on the continued enemy aggression and his invasion of southern Lebanon, Ould Mouknass stated such aggression will continue to take place unless a new policy is adopted to confront the Zionist enemy and to support the Palestinian resistance in its armed struggle to regain its land and rights. He called on the Arab national to shoulder its responsibilities in supporting the Palestinian revolution and the just Arab cause.

Official Talks Begin

JN062043Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Nouakchott, 6 May--The first round of official talks between Iraq and Mauritania began here this evening under Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, Iraqi vice president, and Ahmed Ould Mohamed Salah, member of the Political Bureau of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of equipment and transport.

The talks aim at developing cooperation between Iraq and Mauritania on all levels, at reviewing the situation in the Arab area and on the African Continent, and at discussing issues of common interest.

The first round of talks was attended on the Iraqi side by Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs; the Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott; and a number of general directors accompanying Ma'ruf. The talks were attended on the Mauritanian side by Hamdi Ould Mouknass, minister of foreign affairs, and a number of officials from various Mauritanian ministries.

Trade Agreement Signed

JN070847Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] Nouakchott, 7 May--Iraq and Mauritania have signed a trade agreement to activate the exchange of goods between the two countries. A joint committee, to meet alternately in the capitals of Iraq and Mauritania, was formed to follow up the implementation of the agreement. The agreement grants privileges to goods of Iraqi and Mauritanian origin with a 50 percent rate of national manufacture. It also provides for the establishment of trade exhibitions and the opening of trade centers in the two countries.

The agreement was signed during the final session of the official Iraqi-Mauritanian talks held here last night. The Iraqi side was headed by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf. The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and members of the Iraqi delegation. The Mauritanian side was headed by Ahmed Ould Mohamed Salah, member of the Politburo of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of equipment and transport. The talks were attended by Hamdi Ould Mouknass, minister of foreign affairs, and several Mauritanian officials.

SUDAN

INA: USSR, SUDAN TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

JN061902Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May--The Soviet Union and Sudan have decided to restore bilateral relations to their normal state after these relations had been frozen and then deteriorated during the past 12 months.

The INA correspondent has learned that the Soviet Government has decided to send its ambassador, Felix Fedotov, back to Khartoum after having recalled him last May following the Sudanese Government's decision to expel Soviet experts from Sudan and to reduce the number of the diplomatic corps at the Soviet Embassy in Khartoum.

'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, Sudanese first vice president, has recently held several meetings and consultations with the Soviet charge d'affaires in order to restore relations between the two countries.

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED BY EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE

NC061746Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 May--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that all the Arabs acknowledge Egypt's role in the area and favor its continuation--both those who support the Egyptian peace initiative and those who oppose it. The Sudanese president also stressed that Arab solidarity is a crucial issue which must not be allowed to stoop to the level of "who should submit to someone else's conditions." He expressed optimism about the efforts he is currently undertaking to restore Arab solidarity.

In an interview to be published in the Monday edition of the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, President Numayri said: Arab public opinion has begun to feel the danger of the current split. It is afraid that the Arab cause will be lost in the melee of concern for it and the differences over the best ways to support it.

The Sudanese president explained that the Egyptian initiative has created a new situation, which requires thorough study and a new approach. He said: what is required now is to explore this new reality, exploit any positive aspects and deal with any negative aspect in such a way that Arab solidarity will be victorious in either case.

He expressed the belief that a formula can be reached in this regard that will be acceptable to all Arabs. He emphasized the need to reach this formula because the alternative will be further deterioration in relations, reaching a point of no return and a complete loss of the Arab cause because of too much concern for it.

Regarding his view of the current state of relations among the Arab states, President Numayri said: The differences among the Arabs are differences among brothers who are joined by a common destiny. We are striving to settle these differences or at least to deal with them in a rational way. He said he believes that each side must positively appreciate the needs of the other side.

In his interview, President Numayri also discussed domestic issues in Sudan, such as the difference between the Egyptian and Sudanese experiments with the socialist union, the left, the Soviet Union, local and foreign capital, and investment politices.

He said that contrary to what others say, the reconciliation in Sudan is an admission rather than a denial that differences exist. It is a call to deal with the differences, not to postpone them. He added that reconciliation leads to a solution. Different opinions are accommodated by dialog. Reconciliation enables everyone to participate in this experiment and settle their differences.

President Numayri said: Our primary task is to create a feeling of affiliation to Sudan and awareness of national existence. The reconciliation formula allows us to accomplish this task and face the challenge with unity.

President Numayri announced that he will not allow the formation of parties in Sudan as long as he is president. He said that a one-party system is a necessity for Sudan's unity. He said the Sudanese Socialist Union was not an attempt to copy Egypt's experiment. This formula is a necessity and not a choice. The credit goes to Egypt's July revolution, because it discovered this formula before we did. We have learned not only from the achievements of this revolution, but from its mistakes as well.

Regarding the left's role in national action in Sudan and his attitude toward the Sudanese left, the Sudanese president said: I am not against the left in Sudan, as depicted by some propaganda. The majority of the Sudanese left is taking part in the building of the country. He noted that the amnesty decision he issued for national reconciliation excepted no one and that only 15 communists remain in prison after refusing any reconciliation or understanding.

Regarding Sudan's relations with the Soviet Union, the president said the responsibility for the present state of relations between the two countries rests with Moscow, not Khartoum. It was Moscow which began the enmity with the abortive communist coup in Sudan. He said that Sudan has welcomed the restoration of relations with the Soviet Union in accordance with a recent request by Moscow.

At the end of the interview, President Numayri spoke about the steps that will be taken to revive Arab solidarity, the proposals of the Arab Reconciliation Committee under his chairmanship, and what the committee agreed upon during its recent meetings in Khartoum. He said: We agreed to remain tight-lipped about our mission and not to [words indistinct].

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARANS SAY FRENCH AIR FORCE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING

LD061040Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Summary] According to a Saharan communique, the Moroccan-Mauritanian French military headquarters in El Aaiun summoned French aircraft to their aid. Six Jaguar planes based in Dakar and Nouadhibou flew to the battlefield at (Icherkane), 100 km southeast of Bir Nazran, to help the royalist forces who had arrived there on 3 May for a mop-up operation. Ambushed by the Saharan forces, the Moroccan soldiers suffered heavy losses--more than 92 dead.

The day before yesterday the Saharan forces again encircled the Moroccan troops and it was then that the aid of the French Air Force was sought. The French Jaguars flew in twice, once at noon and again later at 1800. Eleven Saharan fighters were killed and 40 royalist troops died during the operation. A communique issued by the Saharan Defense Ministry points out the seriousness of the French action, which took place on Saharan territory when there was no threat to any French citizens.

Further Details of Fighting

LD080614Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 May 78 LD

[Text] A communique issued today by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry said that on Thursday Saharan revolutionaries carried out a daring military operation against the Moroccan invasion forces occupying the area of Ain Ben Tili at a time when the French Air Force intervened against the Saharan fighters who were besieging Moroccan and Mauritanian military units in (Icherkane), south of Bir Nazran, Bir Mogrein and Semara. In this connection, the communique affirms that 66 Moroccan soldiers and noncommissioned officers were killed and others were wounded; 5 Moroccan soldiers were taken prisoner and 10 Moroccan soldiers were rendered ineffective. One French Jaguar aircraft was shot down.

AFP: MOROCCAN TROOPS ATTACK FLEEING POLISARIO COLUNM

PA061435Y Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT 6 May 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, May 6 (AFP)--The POLISARIO column on which French Air Force Jaguar Jets inflicted heavy losses on Wednesday and Thursday was attacked against yesterday by Moroccan forces as the rebel column fled northward, informed sources said here today.

The Friday clash, for which no casualty figures were immediately available, took place in the mountainous region of Icherkane in the central Western Sahara region controlled by Rabat.

The sources said that the French aircraft had not been involved in the clash yesterday.

(POLISARIO is fighting Morocco and Mauritania in the former Spanish Sahara which the two countries partitioned after Spain withdrew. Yesterday the Mauritanian Government said it had requested the French aircraft to intervene in a raid against Saharan guerrillas.)

GIEREK REMARKS ON POLISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS REPORTED

For a Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU report on PZPR First Secretary Edward Gierek's remarks on the conditions under which Poland would consider diplomatic recognition of Israel--as reported by the Jerusalem POST and published in the 5 May Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT--see the Poland section of the 8 May Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

DAYAN MEETS NEWSMEN BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE

NC071345Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 May 78 NC

[Text] Before leaving Ben-Gurion Airport this morning, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was questioned by newsmen on a variety current issues. But he began by explaining the purpose of his trip above and beyond the ceremonial aspect. [begin recording]

[Dayan] Not everybody agrees with our policy, and I will do my best to explain our policy about it and to listen very carefully to what other people think about it.

[Question] Will you be meeting with any Arab personalities on this trip?

[Answer] No. None of the Arab countries are included in my tour.

[Question] Sir, what's going to happen when Sinai too runs out this fall?

[Answer] Just now we are waiting for the resumption of the negotiations and I really don't think that we should or have anything new to say, especially about Sinai. I think that we have forwarded a most forthcoming and generous proposal and if President as-Sadat doesn't want to discuss it, I really don't think that there is really anything we can do about it. We were criticized in this country that we were giving too much in Sinai. I haven't heard anyone saying that we should have gone even further. And still there is no negotiation over it.

[Question] Sir, what do you feel about the Peace Now Movement?

[Answer] Oh, I wish I knew exactly what they want. I wish one of them would have shown me on the map, or in some other way, what exactly they want us to do. Do they mean by peace now that we should have an unconditional surrender and just to be dictated by the other parties before even hearing what they want and say: Yes, we want peace now for whatever the price would be. Or otherwise, it should be negotiated. I wish very much that one of them, or some of them, would have explained to me what do they want us to do more about the bilateral problem between us and Egypt about Sinai. What do they want us to do? To give Beersheba too, or what?

[Question] Mr Dayan, do you have definite indications from the Americans that there will be a formal Egyptian response to the latest?

[Answer] No. I have not. And I don't think the Americans speak for the Egyptians, but I think that on the whole they accepted the American idea that we should try to discuss the issues under merit and not just the formulations. That is to say, to try to sit down with the Egyptians and to clarify the basis for negotiations point by point and not just the general declaration of principles. [end recording]

More on Press Conference

TA071734Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 7 May 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Israel expects to hear from the United States if the Egyptians are prepared to renew the negotiations, and whether Cairo is prepared to discuss the practical content of a settlement and freeze the discussion on a declaration of principles. This was said by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan this morning at Ben-Gurion Airport before he left for London and official visits to four Scandinavian countries. Mr Dayan added that the renewal of the negotiations and a breakthrough depend only on Egyptian responses. Here is an excerpt from the foreign minister's press conference before he left for London. [begin recording]

[Dayan] I am pleased with the fact that the United States--and I have met only with Americans, I did not meet with the Egyptians--that it agrees that the right way to continue the negotiations should not be further attempts to present a joint definition of verbal principles, but rather an attempt to discuss the substantive issues one by one, both regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, as well as regarding the Sinai--to see if we can reach an agreement with the Egyptians--so far, only the Egyptians have been dealing with it--to see if we can reach an agreement on the substance of the issues, rather than through general definitions.

[Question] Mr Dayan, from what the prime minister has said in the past few days in the United States and according to quotes in the Israeli press, it appears that Mr Begin is now emphasizing the temporary nature of the Israeli autonomy plan. Is this impression correct?

[Answer] In our peace plan it is stated that after 5 years there will be a reassessment. Not that it might or may take place, but that in effect there will be a reassessment. The question is how one regards this situation: if one says that this is a plan which will be reassessed after 5 years, then it can be regarded as a plan which would have to be discussed again after 5 years; or it can be seen as a permanent plan, where the reassessment will examine the need--perhpas there will be no need--to alter it in any way.

I would not define the Israeli plan as an interim plan. Basically, it is definitely a permanent plan. I would not suggest considering any one of its articles as being an article pertaining to an interim settlement. Under no circumstances. One should approach this plan basically as if it were the long-term, final settlement acceptable to both parties. If from the beginning the plan is regarded as something temporary, provisional, then nothing can be done, there will only be temporary things. [end recording]

HA'AREZ ASSESSES DAYAN MOVE ON TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA051924Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 May 78 pp 14, 20 TA

['Uzzi Benziman commentary]

[Excerpts] In the week prior to the Passover holiday Moshe Dayan began a series of discussions with the prime minister, the results of which were the reports arriving from Washington this week about an Israeli proposal to abandon the discussions of the Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. Judging from the testimony of people close to the prime minister, the foreign minister was preceded by other personages who had tried to convince Begin to adopt a similar position, that is, to facilitate the process of negotiations with Egypt by abandoning the preoccupation with the declaration of principles; but their attempts were unsuccessful.

According to the testimony of people close to Dayan, a considerable degree of understanding between Dayan and Vance was noticeable in the course of their practical talks. Reinforcement of this impression can be found in reports on Begin's talks in Washington at the beginning of the week. The prime minister reported to Jerusalem that in his brief talks with Carter and Vance he learned of U.S. objections to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and of U.S. agreement to view the Israeli peace plan as a basis for negotiations.

Nevertheless, some elements in Jerusalem display much less enthusiasm concerning Dayan's discussions and moves. They say that in his talks he deviated from the framework outlined by Begin, that Israel's tactical position has worsened since it has led to a situation in which it must find answers to questions posed by the United States. They have reservations about the wisdom of creating a situation in which the government is obliged to break its head over the basic questions of the future of the West Bank and the Palestinians while As-Sadat does not to date reveal any readiness to deviate even a bit from his well-known positions: a demand for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and for an Israeli readiness to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state (both Dayan and Begin heard in Washington that Atherton returned empty-handed from Cairo). In other words, they say, what is the use of expressing readiness for an additional concession (at least on the tactical level of conducting the negotiations) when As-Sadat has not yet presented a counterproposal for the Israeli peace plan?

These reservations indicate that Dayan's move will have political consequences inside Israel. There will be people in the government, around Begin and in the Likud, who will ask whether Begin is influenced too much by the foreign minister and whether he is aware of the significance of Dayan's steps. Will the new approach aimed at practical negotiations not lead the government and the Likud into a hard argument about the key issues?

If the move begun by Dayan last week will indeed be maintained, it may be expressed in the domestic Israeli arena in arguments over the following basic question: What is the expression for Israel's link to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip? Should the government's hopes concerning the future of these regions be expressed in total control, including the option to extend Israeli sovereignty over them one day? Should we settle for supreme but loose Israeli control and enable the local population largely to determine the fate of these regions in the future? Should we establish a form of control that will guarantee the security of the state and will enable its citizens to move into the West Bank freely but will not necessarily involve the continuation of Israel's formal hold on these regions?

Some say there is no certainty that the discussion will develop in the direction of such basic questions. According to one of the assumptions, the logic inherent in Dayan's initiative is aimed only at relieving the Israeli and Egyptian leaders of the difficulties involved in discussing their positions publicly. According to this view, instead of debating the question as to whether the word "withdrawal" (from the West Bank) will appear in one of the clauses of the declaration of principles, it is better to find out what the Egyptian intention is when they demand an Israeli withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria.

If the Egyptian answer to this question is reasonable (namely, a certain withdrawal), the time will come for the internal discussion in the government and among the Israeli public about the price of peace. However, if the Egyptian answer is unreasonable (namely, insistence on a total Israeli withdrawal), there will be no movement in the political negotiations anyway and there will be no need to trouble the government with internal struggles over the price of peace (with regard to the future of the West Bank and the status of the Palestinians.)

In other words: the tactics suggested by Dayan are intended to enable Begin to talk--in principles, for the time being--about the idea of withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria in order to examine the intentions of the Egyptians. It is intended to give As-Sadat an opportunity to discuss with Israel--on a preliminary level for the time being--a solution for the Palestinian problem other than granting them self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The advantage of Dayan's proposal--the consolidation of a framework of negotiations in which the sacred cows of Egypt and Israel will not be publicly slaughtered but will be examined in private and in secret. The new approach may ease the relations between Jerusalem and Washington. If As-Sadat persists in his refusal to make any compromise, the United States will find itself in a situation in which its approach--the approach which rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state, supports the continued presence of IDF forces in the West Bank and agrees that no total withdrawal should be demanded of Israel--is closer to that of Israel than to that of Egypt.

However, if As-Sadat shows some flexibility and his proposals are nevertheless not acceptable to the government, the people in Israel will know that the confrontation with Washington revolved around practical, serious problems and is not the result of an argument over formulas.

The significance of Dayan's initiative will therefore become clear within 2 or 3 weeks and will depend on the Egyptian and U.S. reactions to it. Meanwhile, the move is causing tension among several Israeli statesmen. This is not only because the foreign minister's idea may lead to "a moment of truth" in the government but also because of the personal significance accompanying the political moves--Dayan's step demonstrated again that he is a key figure in Israeli policymaking. Quite a few people in the government and its offices view the move in the light of this factor alone.

The political community in Israel is waiting in suspense for the prime minister's return from the United States. The reports arriving from Washington and Los Angeles indicated that Begin is cultivating the seed sown by Dayan. The prime minister's brief talks with Carter and Vance dwelled, in the main, on the road suggested by Dayan. Begin's public declarations reflected support for the move and readiness to develop it and carry forward.

Is Begin acting like this because he is prepared to discuss practical settlements regarding Judaea and Samaria which may involve giving up his most important principles? Is he doing this because he assesses that developing Dayan's initiative will not require a desertion of principles but will improve Israel's status in the United States by pointing to and exposing As-Sadat's intransigence? Or, is he perhaps thinking of a trick whereby he will reveal apparent readiness for practical negotiations with Egypt and the United States whereas, in practice, the government's positions will foil practical discussions and bargaining over additional Israeli concessions?

MAJOR HADDAD: TERRORISTS RETURNING TO S. LEBANON

TA080630Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 May 78 TA

[Excerpt] The commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon says that according to reliable information terrorists have returned to the areas evacuated by the IDF in the south, especially to the environs of Bint Jubayl and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar. Maj Sa'id Haddad says that fear and anxiety prevail in the areas to which the terrorists have returned and that many of the inhabitants will again abandon their homes. Major Haddad reported this to our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

DAVAR: NO BIG TERRORIST GROUPS, NO CUBAN TROOPS NOTED

TA0514547 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 May 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Excerpt] No confirmation of the reports that appeared in France that during the last 2 days hundreds of terrorists have returned to the area the IDF evacuated in southern Lebanon could be obtained yesterday from military sources in Israel.

Neither could military elements in Israel confirm that the French UNIFIL battalion stationed in the Tyre area has stopped patrolling. In any case, the IDF has been following events in southern Lebanon and will investigate in the appropriate ways if the terrorists have indeed entered the evacuated areas and will draw the proper conclusions.

Nevertheless, the DAVAR correspondent reports from Jerusalem that reliable sources there have acknowledged that there is confirmed information about the infiltration of Palestinian terrorists into the area south of the Litani River. Most of them infiltrate individually or in small groups, they are usually unarmed and make their way freely toward Tyre, or to other destinations.

The same sources said yesterday that there is no authoritative information in Israel about the presence of Cuban soldiers, and that it is difficult to believe that if Cuban soldiers or advisers had reached southern Lebanon, Israel would not have known about it. The reports about cooperation with Cuba, which appeared in various Palestinian organs following George Habash's visit to Havana, prove that something is taking place behind the scenes on this subject.

CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT MILITARY AFFAIRS

NC0614147 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Chief of Staff Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan interview by Mordekhay Na'or and Yosef Eshkol; date and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Lieutenant General Eytan, on Israel's 30th independence anniversary, what is your evaluation of the situation on the various military fronts in which the IDF is deployed? Would you like to start with the eastern front?

[Answer] In my opinion, which is based on developments on this front since the Yom Kippur war, it is possible that this front is becoming dangerous for the State of Israel for two main reasons: the first, being the military might present on the eastern front, and the second because we have no room to check an attack as we have on the western front--in the Sinai. The population, the infrastructure, the cities and towns are right on the border, on the border of this front. Therefore, any eruption in this front will immediately place these elements under fire, danger and war. I mean the many settlements and the civilian population which are a very important part of the State of Israel. In my opinion the eastern front includes Saudi Arabia. We must include Saudi Arabia and must not ignore the military potential of this country--which has unlimited potential. That is to say today it can do, build, create and establish whatever it wants. There are no limits.

[Question] Including manpower?

[Answer] I think so. This is a slightly more difficult problem. However, in my opinion and as far as I know, all the manpower with military potential is being exploited there.

[Question] Are they liable to import manpower from other Arab countries?

[Answer] In general, potential Arab manpower is unlimited and if the Saudis decide, for example, to recruit Palestinians and to pay them a very high salary, then they will have no problem with human resources. They can do it. This actually constitutes an internal problem because it can endanger the regime. However, if they want to do it, there are no limits.

[Question] Concerning the eastern front, can one say that the Syrian force is the main Arab force facing us?

[Answer] No, the Iraqis are stronger than the Syrians.

[Question] Are you referring to Iraq as a real confrontation state?

[Answer] Yes, the Iraqis will jump happily into any war--just as they have in all previous wars--despite their seemingly abnormal relations with the various Arab countries. In a crisis, they immediately forget everything and join in.

[Question] What about Jordanians? They seem to be on the sidelines all the time.

[Answer] They are not on the sidelines. Theirs is a modern army, equipped with Western arms. As a matter of fact, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are the only Middle Eastern countries, apart from Iran, which have modern Western equipment. Jordan possesses modern U.S. equipment like ours. This army has always been considered a bit better than the other Arab armies. This is perhaps because of the British tradition; perhaps because of the character of the Jordanian people--the bedouins. However, it is a fact, that this is a well-equipped army that is currently being rapidly strengthened by acquiring modern tanks and Hawk missile batteries. The entire army is mechanized and supplied with half-tracks, artillery and missiles and there is a well-equipped air force.

[Question] What is happening on the other side, namely, the Egyptian Army?

[Answer] It is possible that the Egyptian Army has not yet recovered from the Yom Kippur war because of the Soviet embargo and the fact that the Americans are still not sending supplies like the Russians did. Even if they give them what they want, it will take time for them to get used to Western equipment. This will be a problem. It is possible that they have obtained spare parts for the Soviet equipment from India and China; perhaps via Syria; perhaps from Eastern European countries such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia--perhaps. I am not sure. At any rate, the Egyptian Army has not made as much progress as the Syrian Army since the war. The Syrian Army, at that time, was totally devastated, but it has been rebuilt and has even gone beyond.

[Question] Let us now move on to another potential subject--or perhaps it is not potential--that is to say, the terrorists. After the Litani campaign how would you assess their status and position?

[Answer] As far as the status of the terrorists is concerned, it is not for me to say. This is a political problem which is not related to the Litani campaign. Perhaps it is only partially related to the Litani campaign. Their military status, however, has never been anything substantial. I think that the Litani campaign allowed us to obstruct the process of converting these organizations into a more established army. I say this because, prior to the Litani campaign we were witnessing the process of the establishment of a terrorist military infrastructure in southern Lebanon. This infrastructure included artillery, a command headquarters and communications, all of which were in the initial stages of establishment price to the Litani campaign. Large quantities of equipment were being shipped to the port of Tyre and were being integrated and absorbed into the infrastructure. The Litani campaign stopped this process, and caused the terrorists losses in men and equipment and damaged the infrastructure. Now they must regroup, but not in southern Lebanon because they will have a problem there. Where will they do this? Will it be under Syrian supervision in Lebanon, or perhaps somewhere else? Southern Lebanon, prior ro the Litani campaign, provided them with a place tc organize themselves without hindrance.

[Question] In other words, you now discount southern Lebanon as an area for their activity in the near future?

[Answer] No, I did not say that. You said it. This depends on how UNIFIL carries out its mission. If it carries out its mission properly, it will hinder the terrorists. I am not sure the terrorists would be able to repeat what they did before in an area which is controlled by UNIFIL. They will not be able to repeat a process which has been halted by the Litani campaign.

[Question] Has there been any change in their situation and capability in the area north of the Litani?

[Answer] In the situation of the Christians?

[Question] No. In the situation of the terrorists.

[Answer] I do not think so. Their capability north of the Litani is restricted by two main factors: by the Syrians--if the Syrians want to restrict the terrorists; and by the Christians. I think that the terrorists in the north are relatively stronger than the Christians. They are also better organized. It would be more reasonable to expect them to cooperate with the Syrians than to expect the Christians and the Syrians to cooperate. As a matter of fact, the Christians and the Syrians clash from time to time. The terrorists have a problem in Lebanon. Tyre has been seized from them and they no longer have free access to any area through which they can transport arms and where they can regroup. This situation will be maintained as long as the Syrians want to maintain a certain balance between the terrorist and the Christians. The minute the Syrians decide to equip the terrorists and to grant them facilities, the terrorists will have no problems in the north. The Syrians are maneuvering between three parties: they are committed to the Saudis, who are financing their army's presence in Lebanon, while the Saudis are refraining from displaying any overt support for the PLO in Lebanon at the expense of the Christians. Jordan also has a say, because it has good relations with the Christians. The problem is very complicated as far as the terrorists in Lebanon are concerned.

[Question] Is there any substance to the attempts being made by Major Haddad and the Christians in southern Lebanon to establish themselves as a force there?

[Answer] They are limited in their capabilities. They are isolated from the north and their wishes, ideas and concepts do not always conform to reality or to their abilities. This is almost always the case. Haddad has many problems. He is a strong man, but he is in a situation which would be difficult for many of us to imagine. He is isolated from his own country, while at the same time he wants to maintain contact with his country and is responsible for the population in the area under his control. He also wants to establish contact with us. In short, the situation is very complicated. In the meantime, he is holding on very well.

[Question] Lieutenant General Eytan, to elaborate on the same subject: During your tenure as the officer in charge of the northern command, the "good fence"--with all its implications for relations with southern Lebanon--was created. Do you predict any developments in this regard?

[Answer] The fence is, in fact, an open border between the State of Israel, the Christians in southern Lebanon and the Shi'ites who life near our borders. I think the fence has become an accepted, natural and established institution. Today, no one refers to it as something extraordinary. What development can there be? Anyone who wants to is free to come and work.

[Question] I am talking about developing it.

[Answer] Anyone who wants to do so can develop it. There are no limits as far as we are concerned.

[Question] General Eytan, during your tenure as office in charge of the northern command, you placed great emphasis on strengthening in-depth defense. How do you see the role of the border settlements under current defense circumstances and in wartime?

[Answer] I attach great importance to in-depth defense, under current defense circumstances as well as in wartime. A strong army, an in-depth defense, a high state of alert, and motivated people--all of these can contribute greatly as deterrents. The State of Israel was founded on in-depth defense; the state did not start with an army but with the concept of in-depth defense. This fact has not changed to this very day.

[Question] There are those who now deny this.

[Answer] Wherever they may be, let them deny it.

[Question] Let us discuss what happened on the eve of Yom Kippur when the settlements in the Golan Heights were evacuated. Is it possible to say that this is something that happened in the past and will never happen again?

[Answer] I will not say this is a thing of the past. However, one must link the subject of evacuation with the subject of in-depth defense. At that time no in-depth defense existed. The settlements did not possess anything, least of all arms. They had antitank guns which were taken from them 2 weeks before the war because there was an attitude which stemmed from a feeling of supremacy in the wake of the 6-day war and which disregarded the foundations of the State of Israel.

These foundations have not changed. A terrible mistake was made concerning in-depth defense, for if the settlements in the Golan Heights had been as fortified, as trained and as armed on the eve of Yom Kippur as they are today there would have been no need to evacuate them. Perhaps--but only perhaps--it would have been necessary to evacuate the women and the children. The Syrians penetrated into only one settlement: Ramat Magshimim. They did not occupy it, but passed through it. If Ramat Magshimim had been then as it is today, they would not have succeeded in getting near it. However, in the wake of the 6-day war many foolish acts were committed. This was one of them: the attitude toward in-depth defense.

[Question] We now possess many weapons which we manufacture ourselves: the Kfir, the Merkava, the Galil rifle, and many others. Can we say that our dependence on imported arms has decreased?

[Answer] Yes, it is possible to say this.

[Question] What are the implications? Everyone knows that this is good for the Jews.

[Answer] Everyone knows that this is bad for the Arabs.

[Question] We hope so.

[Answer] If we manufacture a tank, we will buy fewer tanks. If we manufacture a tank, we will adapt it to our needs, our war concepts, our methods of operation. The same applies to an aircraft, a rifle and hundreds of other items. We adapt them to the needs and characteristics of our own army. This decreases our dependence on others.

[Question] Is there any limit to this process? Won't this be beyond our capabilities somewhere, particularly when a small country such as Israel is trying to play the role of a large country?

[Answer] We must do this. Suppose one day someone overseas wants to make a reassessment. Then the whole thing will be over. What do we do? Because of our situation, we must do as much as possible ourselves. We could have done more if as a people we had behaved a bit differently, and if we had not reached a Swedish standard of living while possessing only enough money for a Zulu.

UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE INTERVIEWED ON TELEVISION

TA052013Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 5 May 78 TA

[Interview with UNIFIL commander Gen Emmanuel Erskine by television military correspondent 'Amiram Nir--videotaped on 5 May in southern Lebanon, in English]

[Text] [Question] What is the situation in the area right now?

[Answer] It's a bit quiet. There is--of course, the main objective of the Palestinians is to infiltrate back into the area and I went to explain to Mr 'Arafat that this would make it very difficult for him and for us and I don't think it's in the interest of anybody at all. We need this cooperation to insure that the exercise is fully executed. We have to hand it to the Lebanese authorities. Let them establish their authority in the area and at that point he can discuss with the Lebanese authorities what he wants to do. Of course, the Palestinian stand is that by the Cairo agreement they have the right to operate in the area.

[Question] So what you suggest to 'Arafat is to postpone his action until the area will be handed to the Lebanese?

[Answer] Well, we have to stop any elements going into the area. We have to control all movements. If they want to do that, then they come into direct conflict with the UNIFIL mission and this would be creating the sort of problems that we have had on the 2d [of May] and we are trying to avoid that. So I think, in everybody's interest, it is not in the interest of anybody to start shooting at UN people. You are shooting at members from different parts of the world. We are not at war with anybody. We are here as a result of a Security Council demand and I think all parties to the conflict have got to respect this demand, have got to respect the presence of the UN. And this is precisely what we are trying to impress upon them.

[Question] Have you got the impression that the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, can be a worthy party to such a common respect?

[Answer] I must be very frank. In all the activities in the area, in all the negotiations at all sort of levels I would say that he has not been most helpful and most effective. Of course...

[Question] So how do you explain what happened 3 days ago in Tyre?

[Answer] Well, you see this is a point I am just coming to. There are other little factions who may be outside his control. We haven't really, at this stage, been able to identify those who really took upon themselves to shoot my commander, Colonel Salvan. Whether they were PLO, whether they were other rejectionist elements--we don't know yet.

[Question] But your impression is that 'Arafat and his organization have very good firm control over the area.

[Answer] Well, they have--I think 'Arafat has got very good control but I am not saying that he controls the whole of the people.

[Question] Yes, but would an operation that took place against the French battalion there--could an operation of this scale be possible without at least the acceptance of 'Arafat?

[Answer] Well, I would imagine that everybody under command should obey commands but even in normal military commands you have officers, you have soldiers who disobey a certain command. In his organization I would imagine that he may also have the same problem.

[Question] But somehow he managed to keep the peace in the area--the order in the area--since Tuesday night, hasn't he?

[Answer] He has done very well. I was in Beirut yesterday and I was told that as a result of this incident, as a result of the unfortunate incident, he had personally gone to the area. So, I would imagine that his presence in the area might have helped to a large extent in bringing it under some control.

[Question] Is it true, what we heard yesterday in Radio France that the French soldiers have stopped to patrol in the area and as a result of this hundreds of Palestinians--armed Palestinians--infiltrated into southern Lebanon?

[Answer] No, I don't think that this is a very correct assessment. The instructions that we issued were that because of the situation in the area there shouldn't be night patrols. That was only a temporary halt.

[Question] And as to the part of the information that said that hundreds of armed Palestinians infiltrated into southern Lebanon?

[Answer] I wouldn't say hundreds. As I mentioned much earlier, the objective of the Palestinians has been to go back again and we have been doing all that we can to stop them and, of course, this is what has resulted in some of the shooting.

[Question] Have they managed to infiltrate--at least some of them?

[Answer] My information is that there might be a very small number.

[Question] Like what?

[Answer] Ten, 15. And we are trying to get them out and we will get them out of the area. Of course, I think you have to understand that our main mission is to prevent armed personnel into the area and this is the major task. If we have to execute the mission given to UNIFIL the--of course, it's by and large trying to stop armed personnel into the area. I don't think the situation is as alarming as probably is carried to the public. We will get whoever gets into the area--whoever. The legitimate personnel, of course--villagers, refugees and the lot--they will go back. Those who are not entitled to be in the area will be pushed out. And of course, my own experience in the last 4 years since I have been with the UN peacekeeping missions in the Middle East is that its those who do their job well who get into trouble.

[Question] What are you actually looking for when you came here to this area? I mean, one of the UN officers said last night on television that Lebanon is a damned country. How do you feel about it?

[Answer] I think Lebanon is a beautiful country. The whole of the Middle East is beautiful. The pity of it all is what is happening.

[Question] Your people are killed, your people are wounded.

[Answer] Well, you see, the moment that one puts on the military uniform, even in your own national country, you accept some risks.

[Question] But that is natural. I mean this is your own country. What are you looking for in other countries? What is the motivation of a general like you to come here?

[Answer] Well, its a difficult mission, but at the same time I have that sort of personal satisfaction that in my own little way I am contributing something to the peace of the world. If we succeed, and I hope we do, and I think we are trying to do our very best to succeed, UNIFIL will have contributed a lot to a (?better) world. Thank you very much.

NO BREAKTHROUGH IN EGYPT'S HINT TO DISCUSS W. BANK

TA061424Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 May 78 pp 15, 18 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary]

[Excerpts] This time [during his current U.S. visit] the prime minister was perhaps a bit less optimistic than before, when his evaluations were accompanied by superlatives ("I have arrived hopeful and am leaving happy"). However, a note of optimism could still be heard in his words when he expressed the hope for a "breakthrough" to come soon and for the renewal of contacts with Egypt. What exactly has taken place during the few days Dayan spent in Washington that has led to such a sharp turn, if one takes into account that only several days prior to his arrival a strong anti-Israeli campaign was conducted--inspired by the administration--against the background of "Begin's government is an obstacle on the way of peace." All of a sudden, as if by the touch of magic wand, things have changed and a breakthrough, a renewal of the contacts between Jerusalem and Cairo and an Egyptian counterplan is expected soon.

It is said that Dayan's original idea, that the discussion around the declaration of principles should be left aside and that one should concentrate on the main thing--the essence of things on which there are differences of opinion--in order to reach a compromise settlement, was what had contributed to "moving things." There is, of course, much logic in this approach, which had been consolidated by Begin and Dayan in a consultation that preceded Dayan's departure for the United States.

Logically speaking, "the declaration of principles," which for many months has been the cause of serious differences between Jerusalem and Cairo--and worthless running around between the two capitals by roving Ambassador Atherton--is simply an impossible mission. The declaration of principles, the need for the formulation of which As-Sadat raised, must express each party's expressed policy; in other words, within such a framework, As-Sadat would have to repeat the demand for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state. It follows, obviously, that Israel would have to reject such a "joint declaration." However, who says that negotiations must begin with a "declaration of principles?" One can discuss all the principles in the world during the negotiations themselves. The idea is so simple that many wondered why they had to wait until, one day, precisely Moshe Dayan would discover it.

Well, the idea is truly simple, but not so original. The copyright is reserved to Anwar as-Sadat. One could learn from U.S. sources that that very idea was brought up by the Egyptian president in his talk with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman on 30 March--during Weizman's last visit in Egypt. What is the purpose of declarations, As-Sadat argued all of a sudden, to Weizman's great surprise--as if someone seeks to impose on him that burden, called "the declaration of principles"--one could get down to a substantive discussion on the real issues!

Moreover, on that same occasion--on Thursday, 30 March--As-Sadat was inclined to say things similar to what Dayan and Begin heard this time in Washington. According to these sources, As-Sadat showed understanding for the position that no demand should be made that Israel withdraw totally from the West Bank, and, in fact, for the proposition that there is no necessity to force it to declare the establishment of a Palestinian state. However, on the following day--31 March--he suddenly changed his views, for reasons he imparted to Weizman (and Dayan was able to learn the nature of some of them during his talks in Washington): Actually I could not have promised you such a thing, and that is why I did not say what I told you yesterday!

When the matter was discussed in Jerusalem it was difficult to find a logical explanation for As-Sadat's "jumps." It was apparently the defense minister who raised the theory that the United States had had a hand in that and that it had presumable persuaded him to go back on his words....

It did not seem logical to one of the personalities who followed the negotiations with Egypt in all their stages: Why not say simply, he said, that As-Sadat thought about it and changed his mind. Such things have happened in the past--he promised the prime minister in their meeting in Jerusalem that all the areas from the passes to the Rafah approaches would be demilitarized--and later claimed that he was misunderstood....

One way or the other, the prime minister and the foreign minister, as well as some other cabinet members who had heard about that talk thought that it would be better to wait and see which of the two approaches struggling within As-Sadat would emerge.

Several days before Dayan left for the talks in Washington the question of why he should go there arose. It was clear that the foreign minister could once again clarify for the United States that Israel had actually accepted 242, and that it was ready to discuss its implementation with respect to "all the countries," including Jordan; and that if the settlement issue should crop up, Dayan could explain that no new settlements would be established in the Sinai (without making any similar formal commitment regarding Judaea and Samaria). However, this is no "merchandise" with which the negotiations with Egypt can be advanced, because Israel is not "giving" As-Sadat anything in Judaea or Samaria to encourage him to enter negotiations and to allow him to show pan-Arab achievements, and not only Egyptian ones.

That is how "Dayan's idea" cropped up--to waive the declaration of principles and to get down to substantive negotiations at once, in the spirit of As-Sadat's words approximately a month ago.

It is logical to assume that this time As-Sadat would not reject the idea. The fact that the United States has said that it supported the Israeli approach is, presumably, in itself proof to that effect. Up to now Washington would not have given its consent to any Israeli proposal when it had doubts regarding the Egyptian stance toward it. However, there is still better proof that this assumption is correct. During the latest U.S. contacts with Cairo the United States could learn about the practical changes that appeared in As-Sadat's approach with respect to the possibility of pulling the talks with Israel out of their stalemate.

Dayan's words upon his return to Israel, that Israel would be willing to conduct the negotiations concerning the future of Judaea and Samaria with Egypt, might hint at a new direction for the Middle Eastern "momentum."

As far as Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is concerned, "who lives Egypt all the time" and never ceases to quote his close friends Al-Jamasi and As-Sadat, there is nothing new in the change that has supposedly taken place in Washington in the last few days during the foreign minister's visit there. In various circles Weizman often snaps: "What Dayan must hear from Atherton--I heard directly from Al-Jamasi and As-Sadat...."

Indeed, in one of his visits to Cairo Weizman could hear that it was more convenient for Egypt if Jordan did not join the negotiations, "that if it did not enter them--you could finish this with me."

Thus, it may be gathered that if Dayan now publicly speaks about the possibility that negotiations would be conducted with Egypt about even the future of Judaea and Samaria--and not only about the Sinai--then such a readiness in principle exists on the part of As-Sadat and the question is only what is the price As-Sadat would demand so that the business of the West Bank could be "finished with him," together with the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, after the Sinai problems are settled.

The favorable atmosphere which characterized Begin's visit to Washington this time, the U.S. reiteration of the words that the Israeli peace plan is the basis for negotiations and the "good reports" the United States has brought from Cairo--all these are encouraging signs, but they still do not constitute a breakthrough, as U.S. Secretary of State Vance saw fit to correct Dayan.

The prime minister said in the United States that the cabinet would be asked to take decisions "within 3 weeks." What is there for the government to decide upon--is there a need for new government decisions in order to give up the "declaration of principles" and enter substantive negotiations on the Israeli peace plan?

It seems that the questions that were raised during the lengthy talks with Foreign Minister Dayan in Washington point to the new general direction taken by the policy-makers in the administration, who have presumably reached the conclusion that brutal pressure exerted on Israel would not achieve its purpose. That is what the administration has so far tried to do, when it started to get involved. Public opinion in the United States and in Israel shunned the clear attempt to bring about the fall of the government by presenting it as "the obstacle on the way to peace." It became clear to the administration, through talks with MK Shim'on Peres, that on the basic issues he was no less firm than Begin. And since Israel is not being offered a fair territorial compromise, but instead an almost total withdrawal on all fronts is demanded of it, the administration has reached the conclusion that mere pressure on Israel and insulting the elected government publicly would not achieve the aim.

The possible change in the Egyptian approach toward a settlement, not without U.S. inspiration, apparently, stems from the approach that in order to move toward a settlement one should regard the Israeli plan for administrative autonomy concerning the West Bank as the basis for negotiations (the main talks with Dayan and Begin centered around the future of Judaea and Samaria, even though it was clear that the Egyptians have not yet given up their demand for the evacuation of the Israeli settlements in the Sinai).

The rule Dayan followed in his Washington talks was that there were things which semantics cannot ever cover and therefore it cannot be expected that Israel would lend its hand to any declaration from which it would transpire, for example, that at the end of 5 years what would be left to be determined would be only one thing: The question of sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria.

The difficulty, at this stage, in assessing the expected developments, results from only one fact: aside from Israel, no party--neither the United States nor Egypt--has said that it is prepared to leave open the question of sovereignty at the end of 5 years.

"The good atmosphere" that prevailed during Begin's visit does not necessarily herald a change in the U.S. administration's position. Perhaps only a tactical change. The architect of the Carter administration's Middle East policy, Brzezinski, not long ago said that "the United States is not merely an interested party standing in the wings... it has a direct interest... and therefore it may use pressure of its own through peaceful ways and in a constructive manner to reach a settlement."

Dayan came to the United States mainly to uncover Egypt's intentions and to convince that it is not Israel which is the element on which pressure must be exerted "in peaceful ways," but precisely Egypt, which thus far has not withdrawn its two famous demands concerning a withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state. The "news" that As-Sadat would be ready, under certain conditions, to negotiate about the future of Judaea and Samaria was also disclosed to Israel only during Dayan's visit. In that respect there was a positive coincidence of trends: Dayan came to suggest giving up the declaration of principles and getting down to a discussion about the details of a peace settlement, while the administration told him that As-Sadat would be ready to negotiate. Then the "two questions" were raised, the answers to which Dayan left for Begin, while Begin said that he would submit them to the government within 3 weeks.

In fact all the questions can be summed up in one central question: Is it possible to reach an agreement with Egypt, according to which the Israeli plan, with changes in some details, serves as a model for a settlement in Judaea and Samaria which would be limited in time, but which permits Israel not to have to commit itself in advance about how issues that might arise concerning what was to follow should be determined in the future, after 5 years?

The government believes that if As-Sadat really wants peace, then what Israel is proposing should satisfy him: Israel is not imposing its sovereignty on Judaea and Samaria. It grants the inhabitants self-rule; it does not in advance repeal the Jordanian legislation implemented in Judaea and Samaria, and only states that a committee consisting of representatives from Israel, Jordan and the administrative council of the autonomous area would examine the question of legislation and the extent of the authority of that committee to set regulations. Neither would it object to the committee's right to impose taxes on a regional basis for the purpose of self-financing. It would only disagree with anything that might turn autonomy into a nucleus for a Palestinian state.

It seems that if As-Sadat indeed wants peace he does not need to present additional conditions, and he must agree to a settlement which would allow at least Israel and the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza Arabs to live 5 years in peaceful coexistence--and to reexamine the entire problem in 5 years.

Apparently Israel has no difficulty in answering Washington's question of what would happen in 5 years--"everything is open for negotiations"--so long as no clear commitment in advance is demanded of it. What does Egypt want?

Dayan presented this question to Secretary of State Vance, and said: Let us see together what in fact Egypt wants in Judaea and Samaria.

This is the question that has remained open, and for this reason alone it is, for the moment, difficult to evaluate the results of Dayan and Begin's visits. In any case, so long as Egypt believes that Washington will support it and pressure Israel "in a constructive way," as Brzezinski put it, there is no chance for a breakthrough.

JUSTICE MINISTER DISCUSSES PEACE TALKS, U.S. STAND

TA061627Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1410 GMT 5 May 78 TA

[Interview with Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir on the "Between the Lines" program by Yo'el Esteron--time and place not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] What is your opinion of the suggestion made by Dayan to discuss with Egypt the Palestinian issue, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Answer] The issue of Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el has always been discussed with the Egyptians. This is not something new. As-Sadat speaks of this issue all the time, saying that the Sinai is a clear issue and that the problem is Judaea and Samaria. This is nothing new. What can be attributed to the foreign minister is that he suggested that instead of discussing a declaration of principles, we should perhaps discuss the substance of things. This is apparently what he tried to do in his talks with the U.S. secretary of state and we will hear further details about this when he returns.

[Question] Again, I will ask the same question in a different form: Should we and how should we harness Jordan to the cart of the negotiations?

[Answer] This depends primarily on the Jordanians. The prime minister even invited Husayn to come to Jerusalem in a public and clear statement issued during As-Sadat's visit here. The government has declared on different occasions its desire and readiness to sit down with the Jordanians and to discuss all subjects with them. The government's peace plan mentions cooperation with the Jordanians at least on five major subjects, if I am not mistaken.

[Question] All this has not yet brought Jordan to the negotiating table--neither Begin's invitation nor the part pertaining to Jordan in Israel's peace proposal.

[Answer] I suggest that you and all of us understand that if we want to do exactly what the other party wants us to do--this will be very easy. Their dictates are very clear: everything we have done has not yet brought As-Sadat to say yes to a peace that will be acceptable to 90 percent of the Israeli public. A dictate exists instead: return to the 4 June 1967 borders, give up all territories, and give up East Jerusalem. Then we may begin to discuss with you the admission of refugees into your country. Somebody may even raise the question of the freedom of immigration into the State of Israel. There is a process of negotiations. There are two parties and each has its own interests.

As-Sadat took a very large step forward in coming to Jerusalem. This is a step that should be regarded as an important starting point. We should also deal with the problems raised by it. However, this is not a step that should force us to back up and to kneel on the floor with sighs of relief or despair. It requires conducting hard negotiations with the opposite party, which talks in the language of not an inch, and threats. This week I saw a cartoon--one should remember this in order to return to a sense of reality--an Egyptian cartoon in an important Egyptian paper. The cartoon shows three students at a lesson on terrorism. The students are Nero, Mussolini and Hitler. The teacher is Menahem Begin. He gives all of them the mark of 5, telling them he will teach them how to do this better. This is "der steurmer," this is nazism, and it appears in a controlled press.

[Question] Against the background of the disappointment with the Israeli position in the wake of the As-Sadat initiative.

[Answer] What is the Israeli position? We have already forgotten that for the first time in 30 years an Israeli Government agreed to let Egypt have sovereignty over the entire Sinai. Neither Rabin, nor Golda nor Eshkol or any of the Alinement leaders was ready to say this at the time. This was...

[Question] And at the same time settlements were carried out in northern Sinai.

[Answer] Settlements? All settlement acts begun were also begun by previous governments. I am praising them for this. I do not think this was negative. The settlements are blessed. The Rafah approaches are a large and important place and it is not by accident that all governments decided to settle there--in order to erect a barrier between the Gaza Strip and the Egyptians. It was decided to yield all of the Sinai--a yielding which is thought as too rash by some of us but it has already been done. This is already a sure thing and has already been forgotten. There is a peace plan which means, at this stage, that Israeli law is not applied to Judaea and Samaria. There is readiness to treat the demand for sovereignty as an inssue to be decided on in the future. This is all very different from the original platform of the Likud.

We went more than half way. This is also not thought about any longer. This is also in the [Arab] pocket. In the meantime, As-Sadat, ever since he came to Jerusalem, has not moved a single centimeter toward us. He comes and says--knowing well that there are hard things: I will make very hard demands of you. He said not an inch and when he says again and again that their land is sacred, then various circles in Israel who are shocked and alarmed when they hear this from an Israeli, think this is natural and clear, that it is allowed for him, that he is not tough.

He says not an inch. He says he will not give up a single percent of Egypt's land, that we should move back completely. Husayn says the same thing. What should we do then--conduct negotiations or accept a dictate, kneel on the floor and say yes sir, I accept your order? It is clear that by means of this kind of pressure which we exert on the government from the inside we simply encourage As-Sadat to toughen his positions and adopt positions which most Israeli parties, including the Alinement, are unprepared to accept.

So it is necessary to continue the negotiations, and I am not saying the government has not taken this or the other step which was wrong. I had an argument in the government on what happened in Shilo and on the way it happened, and on the timing of settlements, and I think it would have been better for the Government of Israel to have expressly declared that it was ready for a territorial compromise on all three fronts. All this is true. However, between this and self-flagellation, and not seeing all that the government has done, with the far-reaching positive results--that for the first time the United States does not talk with us about the PLO, in other words, the PLO is out of the game; for the first time the United States says: There will not be a third Palestinian country--it did not talk like this some time ago.

[Question] But the United States is also saying other things, the threefold arms deal...

[Answer] For the first time the United States is saying, for the first time: An Israeli army will remain in Judaea and Samaria, even beyond the area of Israeli sovereignty. These are achievements of standing, these are achievements which result from knowing how to bargain. It is not for the government's sake, this discussion, it is for the future of the country, for the future of the citizens. I am not saying that we make no mistakes; I am not saying that there is [not] a very serious problem with public opinion--there is such a problem, to some extent it depends on us, certainly. I am only suggesting that exaggerations and extremism and self-flagellation be avoided. The more we see things in a balanced way, and also check and criticize ourselves, certainly, continually--but we should see things in a balanced way and give ourselves enough time to negotiate. [sentence as heard]

Here two sides are arguing: One of them is democratic, the other is totalitarian. As-Sadat can sit with a "poker face," with a closed mind, and you could not know what he will say tomorrow. We have a free and open society. Any discussion between such as these would invariably be to the advantage of the one with the "poker face." All this must be kept in mind even when there are arguments at home.

[Question] On the democratic side, that is ours, there are three who in fact are conducting the negotiations, having various shades of opinion.

[Answer] This is the case with people living in a free society.

[Question] No doubt. I would like to ask with which of the three you sympathize--Begin, Dayan or Weizman?

[Answer] Three members of the government, what do you mean--sympathize?

[Question] With which position?

[Answer] As far as positions are concerned, my positions are identical to those of the DMC, and they are known and written in the platform. On that basis, knowing that this was our platform, we entered the government; knowing that we would retain the freedom of expression and freedom of voting, and that is what we have been doing. We have, on several issues, taken a position different from that of the Likud, in all its shades, and we hold to our position--sometimes finding a common language with X, sometimes with Y. True, in general you can say that the DMC, in its approach--you may call it more moderate, even though it is not always so. For example, I have heard positions expressed inside the DMC that we have been too hasty in saying what we have regarding the Sinai, perhaps it should have been done in stages, and perhaps it should have been dragged on over a longer period of time, and that that increased As-Sadat's appetite, there were such claims. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, the government decided as it did because it did not want to miss the great opportunity of As-Sadat's arrival, and it paid a very heavy price.

[Question] Thinking about it now, was it not a mistake?

[Answer] I am not dealing now with evaluations of yesterday; I am dealing with planning for tomorrow. I know that if we did not do so, people would have told us--in Israel and abroad--As-Sadat is coming, doing a great thing; a daring, far-reaching thing should have been done in response. It is still not exactly close to home, it is not like Judaea and Samaria, it is not the distance between Netanya and Tulkarm. You should have gone toward him and done what all the governments did not do. That is what we did. So, as for judging--the minister of history will judge in the future.

[Question] You have already mentioned the United States. It seems that the U.S. administration, like U.S. public opinion, even our professed friends--Jews and non-Jews alike--understand and agree with Israel's actions to a lesser degree: with regard to the package deal, the settlements--whether real or imaginary.

[Answer] The package deal--it is not Israel that does this. The package deal is made by the United States, whose situation in the realm of energy has been getting worse. The United States is not doing it to punish Israel.

[Question] It has never before made package deals.

[Answer] The United States has been doing this through a very dangerous process for us; it is a society which is more and more based on technology, more and more needs energy, and is able to produce less and less energy from its own sources--and, therefore, it is becoming more and more dependent on Middle Eastern sources. U.S. conformance to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and other elements in the Middle East forces it, according to its calculations, to go the way they are going. Furthermore it wants to completely remove Egypt from being--to a certain extent--close to the Eastern bloc, to make it an integral part of the powers on which the United States leans in the Middle East....

[Question] At the expense of Israel?

[Answer] This is clearly a U.S. consideration and in the course of this path there is even readiness to make concessions at the expense of Israel, that is obvious. If you supply F-15 aircraft to the Saudis it means that you are weakening the State of Israel in proportion, and that tomorrow they might come into the hands of the Egyptians; even in the hands of the Saudis they are dangerous.

The Saudis have a base in Tabuk, it is very close to home. Here we have a very serious problem. It has no connection whatsoever with Israel's positions.

I was in the United States--Rabin was then the prime minister--when it was decided to supply the first aircraft--the first military aircraft, the military cargo aircraft [to Egypt]--and it was clear that that was the beginning of a process, just as it was clear that there would be different, dangerous positions within U.S. society as a result of the dependence on energy, which forces us definitely to weigh our positions and examine them. This is the reason for certain positions that I have held since the Yom Kippur war, knowing these data on the international level, which force us to combine strength and resilience with flexibility, and understanding the problems of the country on which we are so dependent--the United States--and of its citizens and of its public opinion. There is no doubt that this must be taken into consideration, but in a balanced way, and not out of panic or out of a feeling that "I do not matter"--just as I have always objected to the haughty air often prevalent among Israelis who say that what the non-Jews say is not important, only what the Jews are doing matters. I thought it was a very arrogant expression, for which there is no room. It is a fact that it is also very important what the non-Jews are saying, and one should consider it--but consider it, not submit to it and not kneel. Instead, we must find the golden path. Only by doing this have we achieved what we have.

YADIN INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS

NC061320Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[From This Week Newsreel]

[Text] In light of the differences between Jerusalem and Washington over the warplanes and Israel's negotiating position, how does Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin view American-Israeli relations at this time? Reporter Mark Lavi asked Yadin if Israel could and should stand up to American pressures. [Begin recording]

[Yadin] Let us first of all face it quite squarely. The policy of the United States since 1967 hasn't changed, since the days of the so-called Rogers plan, which actually meant that Israel has to go back to 1967 with minor modification. Basically, I don't think it has changed; and pressure on Israel to follow that line started already 10 years ago. We had to face this confrontation because it actually deals with our very, very existence.

Now, of course, if all the might of the United States--and I say all the might, including the administration and the Congress, and public opinion, and the Jewish people... [incomplete thought as heard] All these are elements in the power of the United States to put pressure. If all these were against Israel, I don't think Israel would have been in a position to stand against it. We wouldn't yield, because it would be yielding. We had to choose between suicide or being crushed. But still it will be very difficult. I believe that if we shall follow a sound policy of real moderation on the things which are not essential and stand on the main things, I don't think that the whole might of the United States, in that sense, will be against us. In fact, I do not believe even that President Carter himself actually wants to impose these things on Israel. What he really wants is to find a way for negotiations. Of course, he follows sometimes a policy which was shaped, let us say, by the Brookings Institution or by some others.

I think personally that we can withstand this so-called pressure, but we cannot, we shouldn't do that by just direct confrontation, by saying no; but by trying all the time to continue the dialog with the Americans--different bodies--to show them first of all that we really want peace, to show them different alternatives, and to ask them tnat if they cannot help in the negotiations, at least they should not be an obstacle. We would like to have their good offices, and I think this is really the process which is taking place now. I don't think there is going to be a direct confrontation, although this happened in the past. I believe they want to have peace; we want to have peace. And, after all, the basic friendship between America and Israel, as was really declared by President Carter 2 days ago in a manner which was never declared before, shows the deep friendship between Israel and the United States is really a friendship more than a formal alliance. [end recording]

BETHLEHEM GOVERNOR TO REMAIN IN HIS POST

NC0609311Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 May 78 NC

[Text] The governor of Bethlehem and his assistant will remain in their posts even after they were reprimanded for their part in the Bayt Jala school incident. This is reported by our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria.

Replying to their inquiries, the governor of Bethlehem has already notified the city's notables that he will remain in his post. Our correspondent has learned that the fact that the governor and his assistant were reprimanded does not disqualify them from continuing in their posts.

TEHERAN COMMENTS ON RECOGNITION OF AFGHANISTAN

LD061059Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0910 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] A spokesman from the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced this morning: at the request of the government of Afghanistan, the Imperial Iranian Government today, Saturday, 6 May, informed that government that relations will continue as before.

[Words indistinct] Our correspondent reported that this morning the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul who, in the absence of Mr Hoseyn Daudi, Iranian ambassador in Afghanistan, is carrying out the tasks of imperial representation in Kabul, visited the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and handed the text of the note of the Imperial Iranian Government to the Afghan diplomatic authorities.

The Iranian ambassador to Kabul, who has been in Teheran since the coup d'etat in Afghanistan, will soon leave for Kabul to carry out the tasks entrusted to him.

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement, which is tantamount to recognition of the new government of Afghanistan, is being published at a time when world powers are recognizing the new government of Afghanistan one after another. Iran is the 10th country and third neighbor of Afghanistan, including the USSR and Pakistan, to recognize the regime of Nur Mohammad Taraki.

The regime of Mohammad Daud, former president of Afghanistan, was toppled with the collaboration of the army, air force and a group of young officers of that country's air force, and the new regime, under the leadership of Nur Mohammad Taraki, annulling the country's former constitution, formed a new government a few days ago which requested recognition from Iran and other countries, particularly its neighbors.

Col Abdol Qader, the coup d'etat spokesman and minister of defense of the new government of Afghanistan, announced last Thursday that Afghanistan desired the strengthening of normal and friendly relations with Iran and Mr Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, our country's minister of foreign affairs, the same day, while seeing off Arnaldo Forlani, officially announced: the Iranian government desires normal and friendly relations not only with Afghanistan but with all the countries of the world. At the same time the foreign minister said that the establishment of relations with Afghanistan depended on the degree of interest shown by Afghanistan. Thus, the establishment of renewed relations between Teheran and Kabul was left directly up to the new government of Afghanistan.

The recognition of the government of Afghanistan by Iran and the publication of the statement which states that relations between Iran and Afghanistan will continue as before, at the request of that government, demonstrates that during the past 48 hours contacts were made through diplomatic channels of the two countries resulting in the recognition of the new regime by Iran.

SHAH, SHAHBANU TO VISIT HUNGARY, BULGARIA IN MAY

LD061014Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 6 May 78 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Imperial Court announced that the shah and the shahbanu will pay an official visit to Hungary from 12 to 16 May 78 and to Bulgaria from 16 to 19 May 1978.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL REPORTS U.S. RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME

LD/BK070330 [Editorial report LD/BK] Kabul Domestic Service in Dari at 1600 GMT on 6 May carries a report citing the Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate saying that the United States has officially recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The Foreign Ministery's Information Directorate also reports that his excellency the U.S. ambassador paid a courtesy call on Afghan Prime Minister Nur Mohammad Taraki at his office at 1700 today.

GDR Recognition

JN071325Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] We have learned from the Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry that Dr (?Brandlindigermann), the GDR special envoy, met at 0900 yesterday with Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, and handed him a letter containing the GDR's official recognition of the Democratic Republic, of Afghanistan.

FRG Recognition

JN071328Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry has announced that the FRG has recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The memo of the FRG Embassy in Kabul, dated 6 May 1978, regarding this recognition also referred to the traditional relations of friendship between the people of the two countries and the German Government's decision to continue its political relations with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Italian Recognition

JN071329Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Italy has recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This recognition was expressed in a memo from the Italian Embassy in Kabul dated 6 May 1978. The memo also expressed Italy's desire to continue its political relations with Afghanistan.

South Korean Recognition

JN071330Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Myong-chun Choe, South Korean ambassador in Kabul, met with Hafezollah Amin, deputy premier and foreign minister, at 1000 yesterday. During the meeting, he handed Amin a letter from the Korean Government recognizing the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and extending best wishes to the Afghan Government and people.

Turkish Recognition

BK051629Y Kabul in English to South Asia 1100 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the Republic of Turkey has officially recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In the memorandum of 5 May, the Turkish Embassy in Kabul (?advised this office) of its government's desire for a continuation of the traditional relationship between the two nations.

Pakistani Recognition

LD051820Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 May 78 LD/BK

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has officially recongized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Information Directorate of the Foreign Ministry reported: His Excellency Ali Asad, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul, met with Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and premier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in his office at 1700 today and presented him with a memorandum extending official recognition to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

TARAKI RECEIVES CUBAN, UK AMBASSADORS IN KABUL

JN071331Y Kabul in Arabic to the Middle East 1000 GMT 7 May 78 JN

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Dr Jose Lopez Sanchez, nonresident Cuban ambassador, met with Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, at 1400 yesterday. Dr Jose Lopez Sanchez then paid a courtesy call on Babrak Karmal, deputy premier.

At 1600 yesterday, Nur Mohammad Taraki received Kenneth Roy Crook, UK ambassador to Afghanistan, who came to pay a courtesy call.

AFP: FORMER AFGHAN OFFICIALS FEAR REPRISALS, FLEE

BK051003Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[AFP correspondent's dispatch]

[Text] Kabul, May 5 (AFP)--Many influential members of the former regime have fled Kabul since the military coup here on April 27, fearing reprisals against themselves and their families.

Foreign sources in the Afghan capital reported a few arrests and that members [words indistinct] President Sardar Mohammad Daud's immediate family were taken to an unknown destination after the shooting at the palace. But nothing was known on how the new leaders intend to deal with the few hundred people directly connected with the former regime.

In Kabul General Post Office on May 1, this correspondent saw a young cousin of former President Zahir Shah, now in exile in Rome, in tears as she sent a telegram overseas.

Members of the Tarzi and Mohammedzai families, all-powerful in pre-coup Afghanistan, told foreign friends it would be better not to try and contact or see them for the time being to avoid these visits being interpreted as hostile to the new regime. Some families escaped to the countryside seeking shelter in their tribes, sources in Kabul reported.

The revolutionary government's silence on the matter has given rise to the most far-fetched rumours circulating in Kabul's milling bazaars and foreign circles alike, notably on the number of people killed since the coup.

The new government stated plainly through Defence Minister Lt Colonel Abdol Qader that "feudalism and the aristocracy are finished in Afghanistan." The state has confiscated houses and property estimated at tens of thousands of hectares (acres) from the Daud family.

Last night, the radio called on the people to report "counter-revolutionaries." Without giving figures or clarifying its position on the aristocracy, the new government, apparently composed of intellectuals of more humble origin, denied it wanted a bloodbath and said only those who resisted had been killed.

LOCAL MOSLEM LEADERS CONGRATULATE NEW REGIME

LD051546Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 5 May 78 LD

[Text] Members of the Afghanistan Council of Ulemas as well as ulemas and religious leaders from Kabul's public mosques, in a letter addressed to the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, congratulated them on the establishment of the new revolutionary order in the country and expressed their full support for the new regime. In the letter, the ulemas of the Council of Ulemas of Afghanistan and priests and religious leaders of the city of Kabul's mosques congratulated the Revolutionary Council of the armed forces of Afghanistan on this major reform. Since this new order, in its early announcements, has declared its internal policy in the light of the religion of Islam, we have been very pleased and will support and endorse this regime and pray to Almighty God for its greater success.

The Council of Ulemas' letter was signed by Maulawai Moti'ollah, Maulawai Fayzollah, Maulawai Nasrollah, Maulawai Abdorrafi', Maulawai Mohammad Omar and Maulawi Mohammad Akbar Sahebzadeh, [passage indistinct]

BANGLADESH

RESISTANCE GROUPS PROTEST BURMESE EVICTION OF MOSLEMS

BK051103Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] Resistance Day is being observed all over Bangladesh today to protest against the atrocities on the ethnic minority community in Burma and their forcible eviction into Bangladesh. The call to observe the day has been given by the Bangladesh Jamit-I-Ulema Islam, the Bangladesh Komi Madras Shikshak Samity, the Islamic Democratic League, the Bangladesh Hari Samity, the Bangladesh Imam Samitt, the Dacca City (Khalimur) Islamic Samity,and the Bangladesh Islamic Prachar Daftar.

The Resistance Observance Committee is holding a protest rally at Baitul Mukarram this afternoon.

Meanwhile, leaders representing various shades of public opinion have continued to condemn the eviction of the Burmese ethic community and urged the UN secretary general and (?word powers) to intervene in the matter. The total number of Burmese refugees pushed into the Bangladesh territory now stands at 85,000.

The Bangladesh presidential adviser Mr Benita Roy, Dr Muzaffar Ahmed, Capt Nurul Haq and Dr Badruddozza Chowdhury have visited a large number of evictee camps within Cox's Bazar and Bandarban areas. They talked to the inmates of different camps who spoke of harrowing tales of arson, firing, looting and assault on womenfolk, all of whom were driven out from their homes and had to take shelter in Bangladesh.

The advisers found that a large number of evictees were in possession of valid certificates of Burmese citizenship. Quite a number of them complained that their citizenship certificates were snatched away by the Burmese authorities before they were driven out. The evictees are now being organized in different camps for shelter and relief operations till they are returned to their homeland.

DACCA RADIO ASKS BURMA TO TAKE BACK REFUGEES

BK0713502 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1235 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The exodus of the ethnic minority from Burma to Bangladesh has assumed serious proportions. According to the latest report, an estimated 70,000 evicted Burmese nationals have taken shelter in refugee (? camps) in Bangladesh. The influx is still continuing. The situation resulting from such massive entry of Burmese nationals into Bangladesh territory is truly a distressing one. For one thing, the refugees have been entering this country carrying tales of persecution and harassment. It is a pity that the people who have been evicted from their hearth and home in Burma and pushed into Bangladesh with reasons only known to the concerned authorities should become the victims of such arbitrary action. Under the circumstances, Bangladesh finds herself dragged into a situation which demands and (?merits) immediate attention purely on humanitarian grounds. She has been forced to accommodate the evicted Burmese nationals temporarily at the refugee camps in consideration of the sufferings of these poor helpless people. Human considerations have left Bangladesh with no other option but to allow these people to temporarily take shelter on her territory, even though the refugee problem has caused heavy pressure on her.

As the spokesman of the government aptly pointed out on Saturday [6 May], continuous maltreatment of the members of the ethnic minority community in Burma and their nonstop influx into Bangladesh for shelter and safety have caused a situation of great strain in the relationship between the two neighboring countries. There is no doubt that right-thinking people all over the world will be concerned about such persecution of the ethnic minority in our neighboring country and will be interested in insuring an effective halt to the sufferings of the concerned people and the safe return of refugees to their homes.

So far as Bangladesh is concerned, the government has done everything possible to draw the attention of the Burmese Government to this situation, urging immediate suspension of the eviction operation in their territory. In fact, a special envoy of President Ziaur Rahman visited Burma seeking a solution to the problem through negotiation shortly after the influx of the Burmese nationals into Bangladesh. This was followed by the visit of the Burmese foreign minister to Dacca with whom the matter was also discussed in depth. It was only natural to hope that the situation would improve after the exchange of visits. But it is surprising that despite the assurances of the Burmese foreign minister, full-scale eviction of the members of the ethnic minority followed his departure. This has, naturally, created a delicate situation.

Bangladesh, on her part, is doing her best with her limited resources to provide succor to the distressed Burmese nationals who have taken shelter in refugee camps inside her territory. Measures for massive relief work have been taken up on humanitarian considerations, but one has to remember that the ultimate solution of the problem remains in insuring the safe return of the refugees to their homeland. This is their legitimate right.

Bangladesh wants friendly and cooperative relationships with all her neighbors, including Burma. It is in the interest of goodneighborliness and friendly relations that the Burmese authorities should cooperate with the Bangladesh Government in working out arrangements that will effectively take care of the problem, end the suffering of the concerned people and insure their safe return home. It is not much to expect from Burma that she should take immediate and adequate measures to bring this large migration of her nationals to an end and to enable those who have taken shelter in refugee camps in Bangladesh to return home. Bangladesh has already made it known that she would continue efforts to find a solution of the problem through negotiations. She is also keeping her friends outside fully informed of the pressing nature of the problem.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the various United Nations agencies have visited the refugee camps inside Bangladesh territory and have seen for themselves the pitiable condition of the distressed Burmese nationals.

We fervently hope that in the interest of humanitarian reasons favorable conditions will be created in Burma so that the members of the ethnic minority sheltered in Bangladesh will be able to return to their homeland soon.

INDIA

INDIAN MP ALLEGES 1959-69 CIA SUPPLY OF ARMS TO KAMPHAS

BK080308Y Bombay PTI in English 0130 GMT 8 May 78 BK

[Text] Jaipur, May 8 (PTI)--Dr Subramanium Swamy, ruling Janata Party MP, alleged here yesterday that India had an agreement with the CIA in 1959 to supply arms to Kamphas living on the Indo-Tibetan border. The agreement was broken by Mr Nixon when he visited China in 1969.

Talking to newsmen, Dr Swamy said that these Kamphas were given training in the United States, and officials of the Government of India were also party to this training. He said that this would expose all those who were talking much about the CIA relations in India. Dr Swamy said that China was no doubt "guilty" for the deterioration of Indo-Chinese relations, but Mr Jawarhalal Nehru was "also not innocent."

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER'S TALKS

BK051603Y Delhi ISI in English 1527 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[5 May statement of the official spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs]

[Text] There was a session lasting 2 hours on 5 May between the two delegations headed by Foreign Minister Minic and Foreign Minister Vajpayee. They had a brief exchange of views about the decision reached in New York by the members of the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau to hold the next meeting of the bureau in Havana from 15-20 May 1978.

After this, the two foreign ministers moved on to the situation in the Horn of Africa. They had a fairly extensive exchange of views on the subject. Minic informed Vajpayee of the results of the various contacts Yugoslavia has had in the past few weeks with the various parties concerned in the conflict in the Horn of Africa. Both ministers agreed that the parties concerned should be advised and persuaded to choose the path of negotiation and seek a peaceful solution to their disputes.

Foreign Minister Minic then gave a detailed account of his visits to Vietnam, Kampuchea and Thailand. He also informed Vajpayee about the conference held in Belgrade to review the implementation of the Helsinki Declaration.

Later, Minic called on the prime minister and was with him for about 45 minutes. He conveyed the warm regards and good wishes from President Tito to Prime Minister Desai who reciprocated the sentiments and requested Minic to convey his warm good wishes to President Tito. There was a lot of reminiscing about President Tito's visits to India and the very close and frequent meetings and contacts between the leaders of the two countries over the years. Prime Minister Desai and Foreign Minister Minic noted that the prospects of further intensifying and expanding their bilateral cooperation--economic and commercial--were bright and every effort should be made to strengthen it further. Minic also revealed that his prime minister will be attending the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament. Then they discussed the situation in southern Africa, touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan, relations with China and the question of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

Minic Departs

BK060955Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 May 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that India and Yugoslavia have decided to increase their bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Bidding farewell at Delhi airport to the Yugoslav foreign minister, who left New Delhi after a 2-day visit, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that he and Mr Minic had a free and friendly exchange of views on various international issues, particularly the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament. He said there was identity of views between the two countries on almost all issues, and Mr Minic's visit has further strengthened the ties between the two countries.

Mr Minic, in his reply, described his talks with Indian leaders as meaningful and very fruitful.

SANJAY GANDHI TAKEN INTO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

BK051247Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Excerpts] Mr Sanjay Gandhi was today taken into judicial custody and lodged in Delhi's (?Bihar) jail following the cancellation of his bail for 1 month by the Supreme Court in the 'Kissa Kusi Ka' [Indian feature film] case. A group of people shouted slogans outside the court. Forty-eight of them were arrested for violating prohibitory orders which are in force in the area.

PAKISTAN

MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH HAQ

BK051547Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] The Malaysian foreign minister, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, met with the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening and presented him with an invitation from the Malaysian prime minister to visit Malaysia. He said the chief martial law administrator accepted the invitation.

Prior to leaving for Karachi a short while ago, the Malaysian foreign minister told newsmen at Islamabad airport that during the talks he briefed the chief martial law administrator on the situation in Southeast Asia.

The Malaysian foreign minister said his country attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and stated that his visit was extremely successful. The visit was aimed at improving bilateral relations between the two countries. He said our views are similar on various international issues in the world forum and international gatherings.

Concludes Visit

BK0610O1Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 6 May 78 BK

[Text] Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen told newsmen at the Islamabad airport last night that there are bright prospects for the promotion of trade relations between Pakistan and Malaysia. He said that he has invited adviser on Foreign Affairs Mr Agha Shahi to visit Malaysia to continue the bilateral good will and dialog. He said that Mr Agha Shahi accepted the invitation. Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen left Karachi for home this morning at the end of his 3-day official visit to Pakistan.

CHAUDHRY RETURNS AFTER MEDICAL CHECKUP IN VIENNA

BK0710S0Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 7 May 78 BK

[Text] President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry returned to Rawalpindi early this morning after a 15-day visit to Vienna. The president had gone to Vienna for a medical checkup.

PAKISTAN TO EXPEDITE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT TO AFGHANISTAN

BK0516O8Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan has made arrangements to expedite the movement of Afghan wheat imports through Pakistan. A spokesman of the railways told Radio Pakistan's Quetta representative that special trains are being operated on alternate days between Karachi and Chaman to move 40,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan. Special arrangements have been made to move the wheat by trucks to Kandahar and other areas in order to build up wheat stocks there and see that there is no wheat shortage in Afghanistan.

SRI LANKA

FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER UNDER INVESTIGATION

BK0514I3Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 5 May 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, May 5 (AFP)--Former Justice Minister Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike personally supervised the destruction of a number of documents and files at the Justice Ministry before the previous government was defeated at the general election last year, Parliament was told last night.

Justice Minister K.W. Devanayagam also told Parliament the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had been called to investigate how a number of files came to be missing from the Justice Ministry.

Among the missing files were those relating to the enactment of a controversial act known as the Criminal Justice Commission Act by the previous government of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

This legislation had been enacted to appoint special courts to try those involved [words indistinct] uprising of 1971, which attempted to overthrow the government of Mrs Bandaranaike, and others suspected of large scale foreign exchange frauds.

The ruling United National Party, then in the opposition, had condemned the legislation as "draconian" and repealed it earlier this year after it came into power.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa told Parliament on [words indistinct] that the loss of the files was discovered when he called for them after receiving a letter from Mr Dias Bandaranaike, trying to put the blame on the former attorney general for the enactment of the legislation.

The prime minister told Parliament the former justice minister seemed to be getting worried as the enactment of this legislation would be one of the matters to be investigated by a special presidential commission appointed last month to probe the abuses of power by the last government.

Mr Premadasa said it was pertinent that although the files were missing from the ministry, the former justice minister had been able to send him a copy of a minute from one of these files.

Replying to a question in Parliament last night, the prime minister expressed the hope that the former justice minister would assist the CID to recover the missing files.

YUGOSLAVIA'S MILOS MINIC ARRIVES IN COLOMBO 6 MAY

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[Text] Mr Milos Minic, vice president of the Federal Executive Council and federal secretary for foreign affairs of Yugoslavia, and party arrived in the island today.

While in Colombo, he will have talks with Mr A.C.S. Hameed, minister of foreign affairs, on international affairs nonalinement--especially the ministerial conference of nonalined countries as well as the forthcoming meeting of ministers of the Coordinating Bureau.

Mr Milos Minic will also discuss bilateral relations between the two countries. Mr Minic will leave Sri Lanka tomorrow.

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